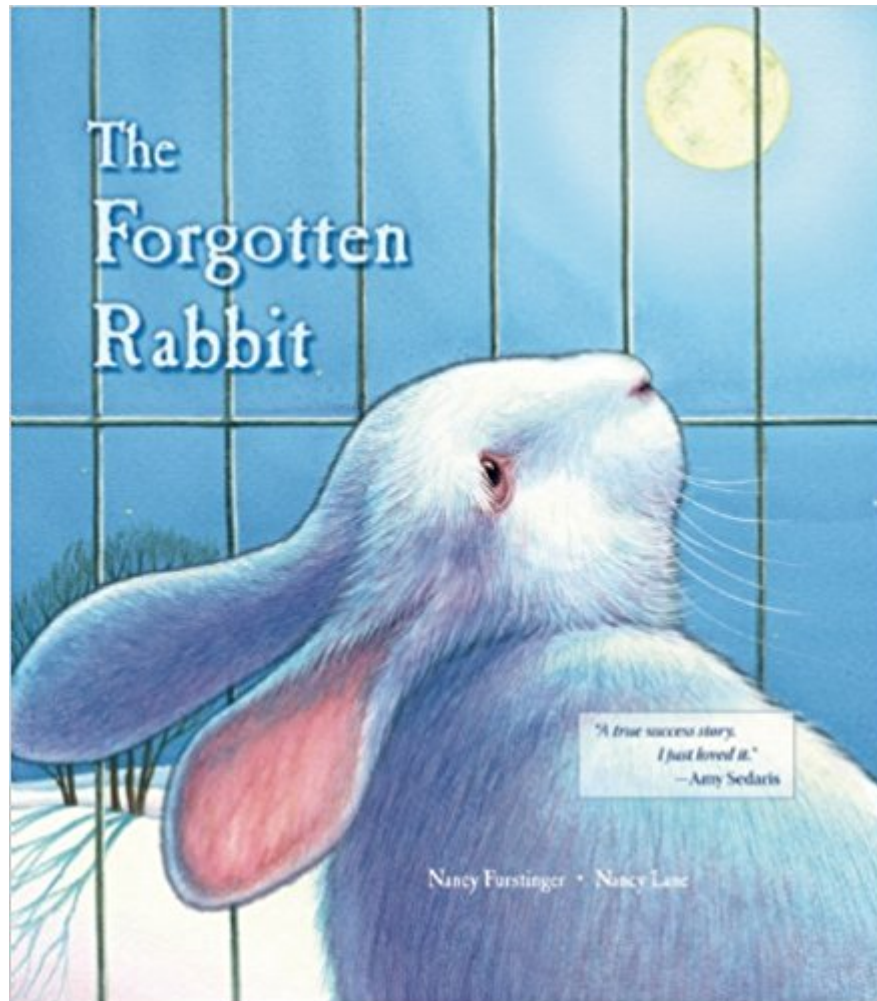




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The Forgotten Rabbit



Synopsis

A true success story. I just loved it. The Forgotten Rabbit will not be forgotten! Amy Sedaris, proud rabbit rescue owner for over 20 years With its compelling color illustrations and evocative descriptions, The Forgotten Rabbit tells the tale of Bella the rabbit as she makes a giant leap from neglected Easter bunny to cherished animal companion. A baby rabbit is chosen as an Easter present, but is soon forgotten by the family's children as they pursue other activities. Her cage is moved outside, and she is rarely tended. As winter comes, she grows weak with hunger and curls into herself to disappear. Then, one night a girl called Rosalita takes her out of her cage, telling her that she has a new home, one in which she will never again be forgotten. Enjoying love, care, and a new name; Bella she takes to the fun of agility lessons. Bella wins first prize in a rabbit agility contest; jumping with joy into the always-loving arms of Rosalita. Written so that children five and up can immediately grasp the point, this children's picture book gives honest but charming insights into the proper care of a rabbit as a companion animal. The story is suspenseful, moving, and, in the end, joyful. The active language will delight children while helping them build vocabulary skills. Nancy Furstinger is the author of nearly one hundred books, including another Gryphon Press title, Maggie's Second Chance. Nancy Lane has illustrated twenty-seven books in twenty-five years, including the Gryphon Press titles A Home for Dakota, Call the Horse Lucky, and KoKoCat, Inside and Out.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Customer Reviews

“A true success story. I just loved it. The Forgotten Rabbit will not be forgotten!”—Amy Sedaris, proud rabbit rescue owner for over 20 years; The Forgotten Rabbit is a must read for all children. The story of a rabbit who was purchased as an impulse pet and later forgotten and neglected until he was rescued by someone who gave her a forever home and showed her the meaning of love. The lesson couldn't be more important, and the story couldn't be sweeter.”—Margo DeMello, President, House Rabbit Society

THE ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS, review, Mary Ann Grossman (4/4/14): "If your child begs for a cute bunny as an Easter gift, read him or her "The Forgotten Rabbit," a beautifully illustrated story about what happens to a rabbit that's taken on impulse: The boy and the girl giggled when I hopped into a basket and cracked the colorful eggs. At first Bunny has a good time: But as spring changed into summer, they left me in my cage longer and longer... When my cage started to smell, they put it in the backyard. I circled my cage while the children played. Eventually the shivering, hungry rabbit is given to Rosalita, who names her Bella: She whispered in my ear ... that I would never be caged outside again. Girl and rabbit bond during agility exercises and Bella leaps for joy at having a forever home. "The Forgotten Rabbit" (\$16.95) is published by Edina-based Gryphon Press, award-winning publisher of children's picture books that explore the human-animal connection. The author, Nancy Furstinger, shares her home in New York state with rescued dogs and house rabbits including Marshmallow, the model for artist Nancy Lane's cover art. Like other Gryphon Press books, "The Forgotten Rabbit" tells a story that ends happily while gently conveying a message about the right way to care for a pet. "KIRKUS REVIEW" Bella the rabbit narrates this earnest story about caring for pet rabbits in the home. Bella was born in a barn on a farm, part of a huge family of bunnies. The farmer sells the baby bunnies to a pet store, where a brother and sister choose Bella as an Easter present. The children play with Bella at first, but then they lose interest in her, and her cage is left outside without adequate food or water. Another girl, Rosalita, rescues Bella and takes her to a much better life in her house. Rosalita quickly wins Bella's affection and then teaches her how to use play equipment in a rabbit-sized obstacle course. They go on to participate in a competition course with other rabbits, and Bella wins a ribbon for her performance. Though Bella's transformation from nervous victim to confident performer is unrealistically fast, her story is touching and draws attention to the plight of unwanted pets purchased without adequate planning and preparation. Pleasant illustrations in candy-bright colors

make Bella an appealing character, though she sometimes seems more like a toy bunny than a real rabbit. An author's note gives more information about pet house rabbits and lists additional resources. Wearing its heart on its sleeve, this story has a mission, but it's a worthy one." (Informational picture book. 4-8)

Bella the rabbit make a giant leap from neglected Easter bunny to cherished animal companion. A true success story. I just loved it. The Forgotten Rabbit will not be forgotten! Amy Sedaris, proud rabbit rescue owner for over 20 years; The Forgotten Rabbit is a must read for all children. The story of a rabbit who was purchased as an impulse pet and later forgotten and neglected until he was rescued by someone who gave her a forever home and showed her the meaning of love. The lesson couldn't be more important, and the story couldn't be sweeter. Margo DeMello, President, House Rabbit Society

This is a must read for young and old. Bringing the soul of a compassionate human to meet the soul of a helpless, forgotten little rabbit and the relationship that follows is nothing short of magical. The Forgotten Rabbit is a book about a rabbit that was purchased through impulse buying, and then cast aside when the children, uneducated about rabbits, grew bored and forgot about their pet. Life was miserable and hopeless for Bella Bunny until Rosalita came along and rescued her. Love is a force that can literally move mountains and Bella who blossomed under Rosalita's care, became a champion at the rabbit agility trials. This is a teaching "love story", and it is so basic it is brilliant. Nancy Furstinger recognized the importance of educating the public that animals are not throw away objects and has done it in an awesome way. The illustrations in this book by Nancy Lane are absolutely beautiful and bring the story to life. I thought the story of Bella was wonderful and I was inspired by Nancy Furstinger's writing skills and her overall message. This is a great book for young and old too!

Just today, I went to my sons kindergarten class. I brought this book and our pet Bunny Strawberry. This was a fantastic story to teach people about not buying a bunny on a whim. It's coming upon Easter and so many bunnies get bought and then left to be neglected after the novelty wears off. The story is told through the bunny's perspective and how it feels to be discarded. It does have a happy ending. It was helpful in teaching the children about bunny & their care.

The beautiful-but-sad caged white bunny on the cover was what caught my eye about *The Forgotten Rabbit*. Being a rabbit lover and a writer/editor of children's books, I couldn't resist picking up a copy. Thankfully, the inside of the book is just as lovely as the outside--both the story and the illustrations. The tale follows the life of one bunny, purchased as an Easter gift. Told from the bunny's point of view in simple, poignant words, Furstinger expresses the joy, sadness, loneliness, and love of these sensitive and perceptive animals. Animal lovers of all ages (and especially families of rescued pets) will love this book. It imparts a very valuable lesson about responsibility & the lives of pets that are purchased on impulse.

A must read for all grade school children. So many pets are forgotten once the novelty wears off. Bella, the bunny, who tells the story, shares her fears and unhappiness as a caged animal, longing to have social stimulation from her family, as they forget about her, and she becomes an inconvenience to them. This is good for discussion of the research necessary before adopting a pet into one's home. A rabbit can live, with proper care, for up to 10-15 years. They are not "disposable pets". No pets are disposable. Bella's story has a happy ending when she is rescued by a family who love her and find a family activity that they can share together. The story is sweet and easy to understand for young children. The illustrations are colorful, soft and beautiful. This book will be enjoyed over and over again!

We have house rabbits and know Bella's story far too well. How wonderful that Nancy shared what **SHOULD** happen, but too often, does not. My 9 year old and 11 year old fought, bribed and cajoled over who got to take this book to school to read to class first. (The 11 year old won) This book **NEEDS** to be in every school and public library and required reading for Easter. **MANY MANY** kudos to Nancy and the other house rabbit advocates for telling the stories that need to be told.

I love all of Nancy's books because she tells stories as they are. *The Forgotten Rabbit* is a true tale of how a bunny was purchased for children then as the bunny grew up the children no longer had interest nor did the parents leaving this sweet bunny all alone in it's cage and totally neglected. A situation that happens all too often where pets are concerned. Nancy's books always show both sides of a story and teaches children right from wrong (and hopefully the parents reading the books) because neglect starts at the top. I cannot wait for Ms. Furstinger's next book. I also read her prior book, *Maggie's Second Chance*. Both books are a must read!

I purchased this book for my friend's 6 yr old daughter who enjoyed it so much that reading it every night became a ritual for a month! The illustrations are as vibrant and beautiful as the words. The gift is the timeless message - easy enough for a child to understand - Do the Right Thing - and Blessings Follow! I ended up buying copies for our elementary school library and classrooms so that the gift could be shared with everyone.

Beautifully written and illustrated!

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