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## **Family Plays**

# The Velveteen Rabbit



Book, music and lyrics by  
Patty Carver and Leo P. Carusone

Based on the book by  
Margery Williams

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# The Velveteen Rabbit

**Interactive musical. Book, music and lyrics by Patty Carver and Leo P. Carusone. Based on the book by Margery Williams. Cast: 3 to 8m., 2 to 6w. (3 to 8 either gender optional, chorus as desired).** It's the classic story of unconditional friendship and love. Closely following Margery Williams' beloved story, this musical includes pop/contemporary musical numbers, sing-alongs and lots of audience participation. The Velveteen Rabbit was the boy's favorite birthday present. But aunts and uncles came to call, there was a party and birthday cake and, soon, the Velveteen Rabbit was forgotten. He lived for a long time in the toy cupboard, and no one thought very much about him. The mechanical toys in the nursery snubbed him, and the Velveteen Rabbit spent his time dreaming of becoming real. Experience the retelling of this classic tale through the eyes of the Skin Horse, the Velveteen Rabbit's only friend, who reminds the Velveteen Rabbit that it takes time and patience to become real. When the boy rediscovers his favorite toy, the Velveteen Rabbit embarks upon the best summer ever. But when the boy gets very sick, the Velveteen Rabbit learns what it means to be a loyal friend and what it really takes to become real. *Small-cast option suitable for touring. Area staging. Optional piano/vocal score, vocal score and rehearsal CD available. Study guide available. Approximate running time: 60 minutes. Code: V43.*

*Cover: Connecticut Children's Theatre, Essex, Conn., featuring Denise Johnson and David Dotterer. Photo: Kim Tyler. Cover design by John Sergel.*

ISBN: 978-0-87602-399-0



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Printed on recycled paper

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# The Velveteen Rabbit

An interactive musical

Book, music and lyrics by

PATTY CARVER

and

LEO P. CARUSONE

Based on the book by

MARGERY WILLIAMS

**Family Plays**

311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098

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Book, music and lyrics by  
PATTY CARVER  
and  
LEO P. CARUSONE

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(THE VELVETEEN RABBIT)

ISBN: 978-0-87602-399-0

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*The Velveteen Rabbit* was produced by Connecticut Children's Theatre as a spring tour in May of 1998, 2004, 2006 and 2009. *The Velveteen Rabbit* premiered at the Shea Center for Performing Arts, William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., on in May of 2004.

## CAST

The Velveteen Rabbit..... Denise Johnson  
Boy..... Jason Elsworth  
Nana..... Simone DePaolo  
Skin Horse..... David Dotterer  
Rabbit..... William Surte

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director..... Jerry Goehring  
Technical Assistant..... William Surette  
Musical Director..... Leo P. Carusone

# The Velveteen Rabbit

## CHARACTERS

### **SMALL CAST**

SKIN HORSE

NANA / BUNNY RABBIT 1

BOY

VELVETEEN RABBIT

NURSERY TOYS (prerecorded voices)

WINDUP DOLL

MODEL BOAT

TIMOTHY THE JOINTED WOODEN LION

BUNNY RABBITS 1 – 4

OFFSTAGE VOICE

MAGIC FAIRY

### **LARGE CAST**

SKIN HORSE

NANA

BOY

VELVETEEN RABBIT

NURSERY TOYS

WINDUP DOLL

MODEL BOAT

TIMOTHY THE JOINTED WOODEN LION

MAGIC FAIRY

BUNNY RABBITS 1 – 4

BUNNY RABBIT CHORUS

## CHARACTER NOTE

The cast is expandable in that the Bunny Rabbit Chorus and Nursery Toys may be added to group musical numbers throughout. If included, the Nursery Toys remain onstage.



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Velveteen Rabbit	
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Skin Horse, Velveteen Rabbit	
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Skin Horse, Velveteen Rabbit	
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Underscore	

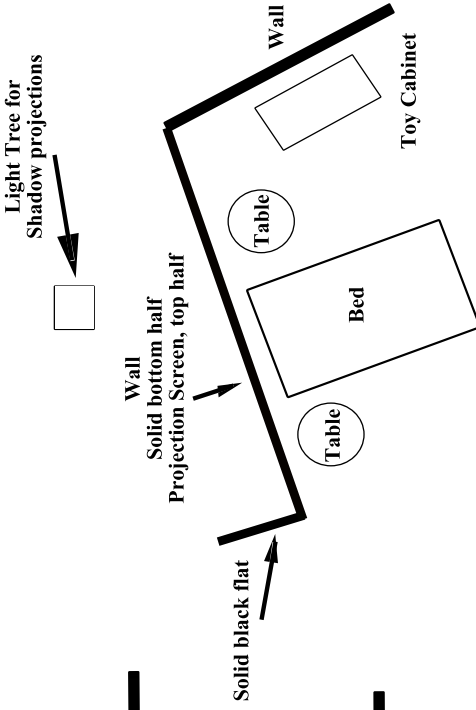
18. Magic Music.....	38
Underscore	
19. I'm Finally Real.....	40
Velveteen Rabbit, Skin Horse, Bunny Rabbits	
20. Tick Tocks .....	42
Instrumental	
21. The Feel of Being Real (Reprise #2).....	43
Skin Horse, Velveteen Rabbit	
22. Finale: I'm Real.....	44
All	

\* *Optional song.*

## SETTINGS

Two exterior settings of the nursery and garden.

**Woods Drop**



**The Boy's Room**

**The Garden**

*Floor plan: Jerry Goehring, Connecticut Children's Theatre, Essex, Conn.*

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The Skin Horse's dialogue to the audience in the opening of the show may be delivered in front of the curtain. When the nursery is revealed, the curtain is drawn. If there is no curtain, the Skin Horse may be isolated in a special, at R or L.

The Velveteen Rabbit sits in the wagon for the majority of the show, so it should be comfortable and possibly padded inside (or knee pads may be helpful).

If the voices of the Nursery Toys are recorded, they should match the voices of the Nursery Toys in all scenes in which they appear.

If the Magic Fairy is a recorded voice, the scene should be played as if the Velveteen Rabbit sees her out above the audience, with focus straight out.

## COSTUME & ACCESSORY SUGGESTIONS

Each character has one costume that remains the same.

**SKIN HORSE:** A horse hood with ears, a horse tail attached to the back of black or brown leather pants, a black long-sleeved button-down flannel or dress shirt, a black or brown leather vest and black or brown casual leather shoes.

**NANA:** A long, dark skirt, a white bib apron, a long-sleeved button-down blouse, a mop cap and shoes with a modest heel.

**BOY:** Knickers, a button-down shirt, a vest, brown leather shoes and knee socks.

**VELVETEEN RABBIT:** A one-piece rabbit suit and hood with ears similar to the look of the stuffed toy velveteen rabbit used at the beginning of the show.

**WINDUP DOLL:** A colorful dress, flats, a doll wig (similar to Raggedy Ann) and doll facial makeup.

**MODEL BOAT:** The actor or actress could hold a toy boat and dress in a “nautical” fashion. For instance, dark blue khakis, a white polo, a red sweater and top-sider shoes.

**TIMOTHY LION:** A lion hood (or mane), a lion tail attached to the back of tan sweatpants or slacks, a tan sweatshirt and a tan top.

**MAGIC FAIRY:** A white or silver long, flowing dress with sequins, sparkles, a matching sparkling headpiece and white or silver flats.

**BUNNY RABBIT 1:** A hood, paws, a powder puff tail, black sweatpants, a black sweatshirt and black sneakers.

**BUNNY RABBIT 2:** A hood, paws, a powder puff tail, brown sweatpants, a white sweatshirt and white sneakers.

**BUNNY RABBIT 3:** A hood, paws, a powder puff tail, white sweatpants, a gray sweatshirt and white sneakers.

**BUNNY RABBIT CHORUS:** White, brown, black, tan or gray (any rabbit color) sweatpants and sweatshirts, hoods with ears, mitten paws and powder puff tails. Patterns for the hoods and paws can be obtained in any costume pattern catalog.

## PROPERTIES

feather duster

bottle of Lysol

stuffed velveteen rabbit

wagon: The wagon needs to be strong enough to carry of the actor or actress playing the Velveteen Rabbit. Possibly a Radio Flyer wagon.

blanket

lanterns (2)

glass of water

water pitcher

trash bag

### **Nursery Suggestions:**

bed

bedding

blankets

pillows

chairs

bookcase with books

shelves

knickknacks

### **Garden Suggestions:**

trees

flower bushes

# The Velveteen Rabbit

## SCENE 1

### (#1: “Velveteen Rabbit Overture”)

AT RISE: *SKIN HORSE enters and speaks to the audience in front of the curtain.*

NOTE: *If actors are playing the NURSERY TOYS, they remain on-stage for group musical numbers throughout.)*

SKIN HORSE. Hello, everyone! Welcome! Do you know what I am? I’m a horse! (*Wags his tail.*) Do you know what I love to do? I love to use my imagination and think of wonderful things like ... chocolate ice cream! And I love to use my imagination and think of beautiful places like ... the sea shore! Palm Beach! The Bahamas! I have an idea. Let’s all imagine together! Everybody, close your eyes! Take a deep breath. Let your ears relax. What do you see?

*(The audience responds.)*

SKIN HORSE (*cont’d*). What do you feel?

*(The audience responds.)*

SKIN HORSE (*cont’d*). Do you know what? You’re getting the sense of being real! (*Starts to sing.*)

NOW BEFORE I BEGIN ...

*(NANA is heard offstage.)*

SKIN HORSE (*cont’d*). Someone’s coming! Quick! Act stuffed!

*(SKIN HORSE freezes DR. NANA enters from L with a feather duster and a bottle of Lysol, talking to herself.)*

### (#2: “Tidy Up” [Underscoring])

NANA. Tidy, tidy, tidy! Oh, this nursery is such a mess! Messy, messy, messy! Dusty, dusty, dusty!



*(She sweeps across the stage with her feather duster, dusting and cleaning everything in sight, including the SKIN HORSE. He tries not to sneeze. NANA looks closely at the SKIN HORSE.)*

NANA (*cont'd*). I declare! If that skin horse doesn't look like he's going to sneeze! Humph!

*(She turns away from the SKIN HORSE and dusts. SKIN HORSE sneezes and freezes again, just as NANA turns back to look at him.)*

NANA (*cont'd*). Oh! What was that?

*(Looks closely at the SKIN HORSE, who doesn't move a muscle.)*

NANA (*cont'd*). Humph! *(Starts to dust her way offstage with her feather duster.)* Tidy, tidy, tidy! Dusty, dusty, dusty!

*(SKIN HORSE hiccups. NANA stops with a quick look back to the SKIN HORSE, who abruptly freezes again.)*

NANA (*cont'd*). ... It couldn't be.

*(NANA exits. SKIN HORSE relaxes.)*

SKIN HORSE. Phew! That was close! Now, where was I? Oh yes! Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Let your ears relax. You know what? You're getting the sense of being real!

### **(#3: “Velveteen Rabbit Opening”)**

SKIN HORSE (*cont'd*).

NOW BEFORE I BEGIN,  
THERE'S SOMETHING WE ALL NEED  
TO OPEN THE DOOR TO MY NURSERY.

IMAGINATION WILL BE THE KEY,  
SO TURN THE KNOB AND COME WITH ME.  
NOW, I'M A HORSE THAT TALKS, YOU SEE,  
AND VERY WISE, OBV'OUSLY,  
AND VERY OLD, ONE HUNDRED YEARS,  
A LITTLE WORN, A COUPLE OF TEARS,  
MY TAIL FRAYED AND BOTH MY EARS  
ARE NOT QUITE WHAT THEY USED TO BE.  
BUT, OH, THE YEARS WERE GOOD TO ME.  
OH, THE YEARS WERE GOOD.

ONE SPECIAL TIME,  
 I REMEMBER VERY WELL,  
 JUST LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY,  
 ABOUT A RABBIT SO FRESH AND CLEAN,  
 A RABBIT MADE OF VELVETEEN  
 AND A LITTLE BOY WITHOUT A NAME.  
 IT DOESN'T MATTER,  
 WE'RE ALL THE SAME.

TO THIS OLD SKIN HORSE LISTEN WELL,  
 AND THE STORY I'M ABOUT TO TELL.  
 IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME WITH PRESENTS AND ALL.  
*PERHAPS IT WAS YESTERDAY,  
 I CAN'T RECALL.*

DID I ...

mention the rabbit and the boy—What's his name?

IT DOESN'T MATTER,  
 WE'RE ALL THE SAME.

SO, BACK TO THE NURSERY WITH NO MORE DELAY  
 AND ON WITH THE STORY

... and have a nice day!!!

*(SKIN HORSE moves L as the curtain is opened and the nursery is revealed.)*

## SCENE 2

*(The BOY is playing with the stuffed velveteen rabbit.)*

### (#4: “My Favorite Rabbit”)

BOY.

YOU ARE MY FAVORITE RABBIT.  
 THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN.  
 JUST ME AND MY VELVETEEN RABBIT,  
 MY VELVETEEN RABBIT AND ME.

WHO NEEDS SILLY PUDDY?  
 I'M HAPPY AS CAN BE.  
 AS LONG AS I GOT MY BUDDY,  
 MY VELVETEEN RABBIT AND ME.

YOU ARE MY FAVORITE RABBIT.  
 THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN.  
 JUST ME AND MY VELVETEEN RABBIT,  
 MY VELVETEEN RABBIT AND ME.

SKIN HORSE.

AT LEAST FOR AN HOUR ...

BOY.

MY RABBIT AND ME!

*(The music continues under the following dialogue.)*

BOY *(cont'd)*. Nana!

*(NANA enters.)*

BOY *(cont'd)*. Look at my new bunny! He's my favorite birthday present!

NANA. No more lollygagging! You must come downstairs. You have many other presents to unwrap.

BOY. More presents?

NANA. That's right!

BOY. I have more presents downstairs! *(Drops the stuffed velveteen rabbit into the wagon next to his bed.)* And birthday cake! Chocolate cake with chocolate frosting and chocolate chip ice cream?

NANA. That's right. Come along, now.

*(NANA exits as the BOY follows. SKIN HORSE crosses from L into the scene, narrating. During the following narration, the VELVETEEN RABBIT takes his place in the wagon, replacing the stuffed rabbit.)*

SKIN HORSE. Well, at least for an hour the Velveteen Rabbit was the boy's favorite toy. But then aunts and uncles came to call, there was a great rustling of tissue paper, unwrapping of parcels and a wonderful birthday dinner! And in all the excitement, the Velveteen Rabbit was forgotten.

*(The VELVETEEN RABBIT tries to talk.)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT *(à la Tin Man)*. Mmmm!

*(He tries again ... nothing. SKIN HORSE does a magic movement and the VELVETEEN RABBIT begins to talk.)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT *(cont'd)*. Hey! I can talk! *(To audience.)* Am I a rabbit?

SKIN HORSE. Of course you're a rabbit! (*To audience.*) Who does he think he is? A giraffe? An elephant? An orangatang?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. I guess it doesn't matter.

SKIN HORSE. Hey. We're all the same.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. But, how can I talk?

SKIN HORSE. Well, you move your lips and ...

VELVETEEN RABBIT. I don't mean that. Is it possible for a rabbit to talk?

SKIN HORSE. Anything's possible. All you need is a little imagination. So, don't sweat it, floppy ears. OK?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. OK.

*(A time-passing transition for the scene change.)*

### SCENE 3

SKIN HORSE. For a long time, he lived in a toy cupboard and no one thought very much about him. He was naturally shy, and being made only of velveteen, the more expensive toys snubbed him. And the mechanical toys were quite superior.

*(SKIN HORSE moves to far R and watches the scene. During the following, the VELVETEEN RABBIT remains in his place by the bed in the wagon as the NURSERY TOYS move around him. WINDUP DOLL, MODEL BOAT and TIMOTHY THE JOINTED WOODEN LION enter from the nursery from L, or have been in the nursery, frozen, until now.)*

WINDUP DOLL. Yoo-hoo! Velveteen Rabbit!

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Yes, Windup Doll?

WINDUP DOLL. Check this out! I am a real mechanical windup doll! I can do so many things! Just wind me up and I dance like a real dancer!

VELVETEEN RABBIT. That's amazing!

WINDUP DOLL. You bet your sweet cottontail it's amazing! I can spin and twirl and dip! By the way, what can you do?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Well ...

WINDUP DOLL. Where is the mechanism to wind you up?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. What do you mean?

WINDUP DOLL. Don't you have a windup key or buttons to push?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Buttons to push?

WINDUP DOLL. Yes, to make you move and hop like a real rabbit ...

VELVETEEN RABBIT. A real rabbit?

WINDUP DOLL. Can't you hop like a real rabbit?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. No.

WINDUP DOLL. If you can't move, then what good are you?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. I don't know.

WINDUP DOLL. Some toy you are! You can't do anything!

*(MODEL BOAT moves closer.)*

MODEL BOAT. Hello, Velveteen Rabbit.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Hello, Model Boat.

MODEL BOAT. Oh, look at my paint! It's chipping away after two years of being played with.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Wow!

MODEL BOAT. Yes, I was the boy's favorite toy for many weeks!

VELVETEEN RABBIT. That must have been wonderful.

MODEL BOAT. Yes, it was. And my paint is chipped but my rudder is fine and my sail still sails. And my rigging ... my rigging is in perfect shape!

VELVETEEN RABBIT. That certainly is fine rigging!

MODEL BOAT. Yup. How about you? Got any rigging?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. No I don't.

MODEL BOAT. Any chipped paint?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. No one ever played with me that much.

MODEL BOAT. Humph!

WINDUP DOLL. Do you know what you are, Velveteen Rabbit?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. What, Windup Doll?

WINDUP DOLL. You are quite an insignificant toy. Don't you agree, Model Boat?

MODEL BOAT. Absolutely.

WINDUP DOLL. How about you, Timothy Lion? Do you agree that this Velveteen Rabbit is quite an insignificant toy?

TIMOTHY LION. Oh, yes. I positively agree.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Timothy Lion, How can you say that?

TIMOTHY LION. As a lion of great wisdom and pride, I have no choice but to agree with all the rest of the nursery toys. There is no use for you, Velveteen Rabbit.

WINDUP DOLL. You can't do anything.

MODEL BOAT. You're unimportant!

TIMOTHY LION. Insignificant!

NURSERY TOYS. Insignificant, indeed!

*(SKIN HORSE has been watching the VELVETEEN RABBIT and the NURSERY TOYS.)*

SKIN HORSE. And all the toys snubbed the Velveteen Rabbit.

NURSERY TOYS. Humph!

*(The NURSERY TOYS exit L or go back to their places in the nursery.)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Skin Horse!

SKIN HORSE *(crossing to the VELVETEEN RABBIT)*. Yes, Velveteen Rabbit?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. The other toys are so mean to me.

*(During the following lines, SKIN HORSE pulls the VELVETEEN RABBIT in the wagon to C.)*

SKIN HORSE. Oh, little rabbit. Those other toys just don't understand.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Understand what?

SKIN HORSE. Becoming real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Real?

SKIN HORSE. How do I explain? ... Look at me. I'm very old. My coat is bald in patches and most of the hair in my tail has been pulled out to string bead necklaces.

VELVETEEN RABBIT *(tugs at what remains of SKIN HORSE's tail)*. Yes, it's pretty bad.

SKIN HORSE. Watch it, floppy ears! You see, those other toys will never turn into anything else because they do not understand. Only those toys who are wise and experienced like me understand becoming real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. But I'm already real, aren't I?

SKIN HORSE. Oh, you silly rabbit. You have so much to learn.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Well, tell me then.

SKIN HORSE. It's a very strange and wonderful thing and only a few toys ever really come to understand it.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Tell me, Skin Horse. What is real? Does it mean having a windup key?

SKIN HORSE. No.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. How about a computer chip or springs or wheels or ...

**(#5: “The Feel of Being Real”)**

SKIN HORSE. Calm down, floppy ears! Listen.

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

LET YOUR EARS RELAX.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Nothing.

*(The music stops.)*

SKIN HORSE. Nothing! You're not concentrating ...

*(The music starts again.)*

SKIN HORSE *(cont'd)*. Now, try it again.

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

LET YOUR EARS RELAX.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Snow!

SKIN HORSE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Warm?

SKIN HORSE.

YOU'RE GETTING THE SENSE OF BEING REAL.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

DOES IT HURT?

SKIN HORSE. No.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

DOES IT BURN?

SKIN HORSE. No.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

TELL ME HOW I LEARN.

SKIN HORSE.

TRUST IN YOUR HEART.

BE WHO YOU ARE.

YOU'RE GETTING THE FEEL OF BEING REAL.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

BUT, HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN IT'S HAPPENING?

SKIN HORSE. You'll know.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

WHEN WILL IT START?

WILL THERE BE A SIGN?

SO MANY QUESTIONS,

WILL IT TAKE A LONG TIME?

SKIN HORSE.

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

LET YOUR EARS RELAX.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Flowers.

SKIN HORSE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Beautiful!

SKIN HORSE.

YOU'RE GETTING THE SENSE OF BEING REAL.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

BUT, HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN IT'S HAPPENING?

WHEN WILL IT START?

WILL THERE BE A SIGN?

SO MANY QUESTIONS,

WILL IT TAKE A LONG TIME?

SKIN HORSE.

YOU MUST BE PATIENT.



VELVETEEN RABBIT.

I WANT TO BE REAL.

SKIN HORSE.

YOU MUST BE TRUE.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

I WANT TO BE REAL.

SKIN HORSE.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AS ONE OF A KIND.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

I WANT TO FEEL LOVE.

SKIN HORSE.

YOU MUST BE PATIENT.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

I WANT TO BE REAL.

SKIN HORSE.

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

LET YOUR EARS RELAX.

VELVETEEN RABBIT.

I WANT TO BE REAL.

*(The music continues and fades into the scene.*

*During the following, SKIN HORSE pulls the VELVETEEN RABBIT in the wagon back to his original place by the bed in the nursery.)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT (*cont'd*). I suppose you are real, Skin Horse.

SKIN HORSE. The boy's uncle made me real. That was many years ago. You see, once you become real, you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. But it takes so long.

SKIN HORSE. It takes time.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. I can't wait.

SKIN HORSE. Be patient, floppy ears. By the time you're real, most of your hair has been loved off, you get loose in the joints and very shabby.

VELVETEEN RABBIT. Well, I don't look forward to that very much!

**(#6: "Tidy Up")**

*(NANA's voice is heard offstage.)*