



## The Velveteen Rabbit

*Margery Williams (1860 - 1935)*

Read by:	Elizabeth Klett	Format:	MP3 CD in paper sleeve, MP3 download
Length:	23 minutes	Catalog:	DB-6001
Language:	English	UPC:	NA
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$4.99
Genre:	Children's Fiction		

*The Velveteen Rabbit, or How Toys Become Real*, is a children's book written by Margery Williams and illustrated by William Nicholson. It tells the tale of a stuffed rabbit, given to a small boy at Christmas, who learns from a wise old toy horse that toys can become real due to love from children. By chance one night he is given to his owner

to sleep with in place of a lost toy and soon becomes the boy's favorite. The boy thinks of him as real, but the toy rabbit meets some live rabbits one summer and learns that he cannot hop and so, alas, he is not real. The boy contracts scarlet fever and the rabbit sits with him through his recovery. The doctor prescribes a visit to the seaside and orders all his possessions be burnt to disinfect his room in his absence. Left outdoors in a sack overnight, the saddened rabbit weeps and a real tear falls to the ground, generating a flower containing a Nursery Magic Fairy who emerges and tells him that now that he has become "Real" to the boy that she will make him "Real" to everyone. She takes him to the forest to meet other rabbits, gives him a kiss, and, voila, he becomes a real rabbit and scampers off with the others. The next spring, the rabbit returns to see the boy, who sees a clear resemblance to his old toy rabbit. The story has rightly become a children's classic and appears on the National Education Association's list of "Teacher's Top 100 Books for Children".

**Margery Williams Bianco** (July 22, 1881 – September 4, 1944) was a British-American author of children's books best known for *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Born the second daughter in London of an accomplished family, she was encouraged to read widely and to create. The sudden death of her father at age seven was a profound event that left her with an awareness of sadness and loss that became themes in her books. Not long after, in 1890, her family moved to rural Pennsylvania, where she studied in a convent school in Sharon Hill. She returned to England in 1901 to pursue her writing ambitions and soon began to publish. In 1904 she met and married Francesco Bianco, a bookseller, with whom she had a son and daughter. In 1907 the family moved to Paris and later to Turin, Italy, where they weathered the World War I. In 1921 the family moved to the United States and settled in Greenwich Village, where they lived for the rest of their lives. The 1922 publication of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, her first children's book, set her on the path of a prolific and successful career as an author of children's books noted for the humanization of animals and inanimate objects and a sense of melancholy followed by a spiritually uplifting finale.