

## The story of a rabbit

Once upon a time, there was a silly little rabbit. That he was little could be ascertained by comparing him to his siblings, all of which had longer ears, fuller tails and longer feet. That he was silly was the opinion of the majority of the animals in the forest, for they watched the rabbit, day after day, hop to the edge of the forest and gaze towards the exterior of his habitat. He would linger there for an hour or two, then would start his day. Life was a succession of searches for him – looking for food, looking for company, looking for safe places to rest. But what he needed before he could set off on his daily searches was that journey to the edge of the woods and the hour that ensued. His family and friends (if you could call them *friends*) considered him silly, for who would waste a precious hour every day just contemplating an area they did not inhabit, a place they did not know? That time would be better spent searching for more. The rabbit knew what the general opinion about him was, but he tried to ignore it. Instead, he wondered why nobody else was curious about the life outside the forest. “Because it’s dangerous,” he thought. “Because it’s unfamiliar. Because it’s unnecessary?”

One day, as he was heading towards the edge of the forest, a thought went through his smaller-than-average head: what if, today, he stepped outside of the forest? The thought made him feel terrified, and soon the rabbit found himself still, frightened, unable to shake away the dread, his legs fixed on the ground. He was angry, not upset the way he felt when someone confused him with a hare, but furious and disappointed by his own ideas. Maybe he was a silly rabbit after all; he considered that for a moment and tears started flowing from his minute chestnut eyes. They had all been saying it, so perhaps it was time to believe that what everybody believed was actually the truth. As the tears flooded his soft fur, he began edging towards his favorite sightseeing spot, and when he got there he turned around to take a look at the forest where he had grown up. Then he leapt forwards.