

## Chapter 1

### *Christmas Morning*



There was once a velveteen<sup>1</sup> rabbit, and in the beginning he was really splendid<sup>2</sup>. He was fat and buncy, as a rabbit should be; his coat was spotted brown and white, he had real thread whiskers, and his ears were lined with pink sateen<sup>3</sup>. On Christmas morning, when he sat wedged in the top of the Boy's stocking, with a sprig of holly<sup>4</sup> between his paws, the effect was charming.

There were other things in the stocking, nuts and oranges and a toy engine<sup>5</sup>, and chocolate almonds and a clockwork mouse, but the Rabbit was quite the best of all. For at least two hours the Boy loved him, and then Aunts and Uncles came to dinner, and there was a great rustling of tissue paper and unwrapping of parcels<sup>6</sup>, and in the excitement of looking at all the new presents the Velveteen Rabbit was forgotten.

For a long time he lived in the toy cupboard or on the nursery floor, and no one thought very much about him. He was naturally shy, and being only made of velveteen, some of the more expensive toys quite snubbed<sup>7</sup> him.

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<sup>1</sup> *velveteen*—a material made of cotton that feels like velvet. (Velvet is a very soft material that feels like fur.)

<sup>2</sup> *splendid*—fine and beautiful.

<sup>3</sup> *sateen*—a smooth, shiny material like satin.

<sup>4</sup> *sprig of holly*—holly is a plant with spiky leaves and red berries that is used in Christmas decorations. A 'sprig' is a twig or little bit of branch with leaves on it.

<sup>5</sup> *toy engine*—a toy train.

<sup>6</sup> *parcels*—presents.

<sup>7</sup> *snubbed*—ignored or made fun of.