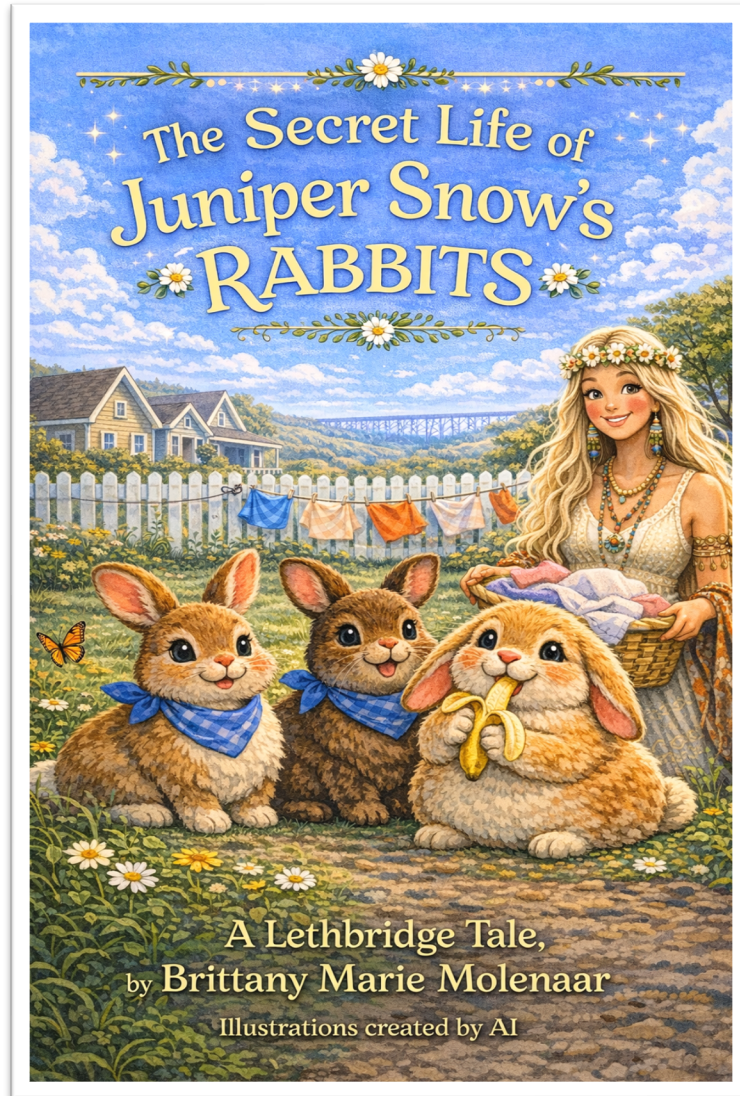


The Secret Life of Juniper Snow's Rabbits

Episode 4, Part 2: Mopsy and the Prairie Pack

A Night of Narrow Escapes



An Easy Reader

Grade 2

Developing Reader

The Secret Life of Juniper Snow's Rabbits

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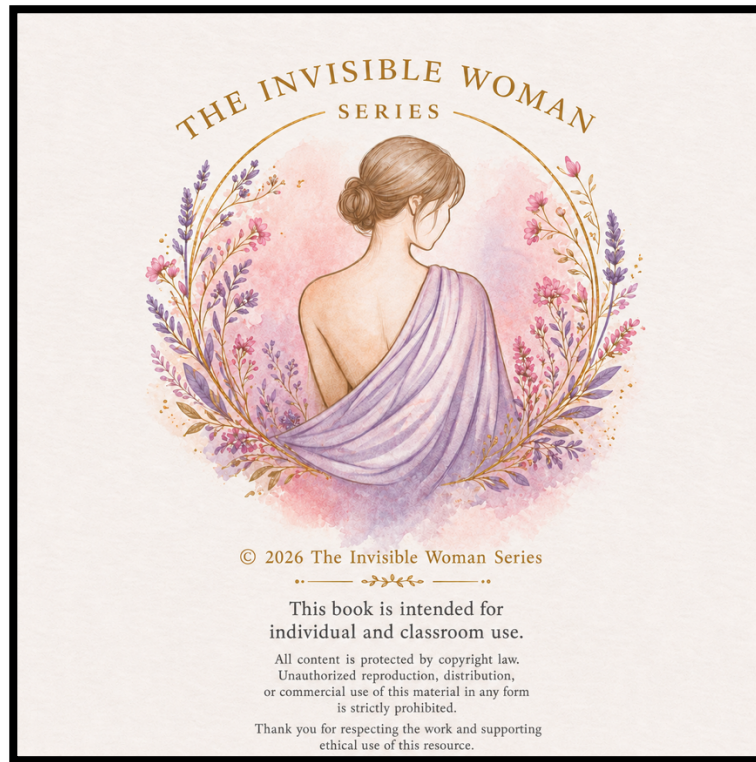
Story and characters by Brittany Marie Molenaar

"A Lethbridge Tale"

Illustrations created with AI

Easy Reader Edition — Grade 2 (Developing Reader)

First Easy Reader edition, 2026



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This Easy Reader is an adaptation of the original story, simplified for the listed grade level and aligned with the Alberta English Language Arts and Literature curriculum (Kindergarten–Grade 6). The storyline and illustrations follow the original work.

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The prairie was dark and quiet. Mopsy, one of Juniper Snow's rabbits, was far from home. Suddenly, a pack of coyotes circled around her. At the center stood their leader, with an eye patch and a tattered red scarf. "Baron Von Biteyface," he announced proudly. Mopsy's little heart went thump-thump-thump.



But Mopsy wasn't just any rabbit. She was clever. She lifted her chin and said, "Oh dear, you're too late. There's a much bigger rabbit over that ridge — round as a hay bale!" "Bigger, you say?" said the Baron. "Forward, my pack!" And away they bolted.



All but one. Snaggle-tooth Steve lingered behind. He watched Mopsy with his one long, pointy tooth sticking out. He wasn't fooled, and he wasn't leaving.



Steve crept closer, drooling all the way. Mopsy's heart pounded. But she did not wait around. She got ready to run.



Mopsy bolted, hopping, zigging, and zagging through the wheat. Steve stumbled and tripped after her, but he was too slow. Before long, Mopsy had lost him for good.



“I did it!” Mopsy cheered. But just then, a shadow passed overhead. It was an owl! “Oh no,” said Mopsy. “Out of the frying pan and back into the fire!”



Mopsy burst deeper into the golden wheat. The owl swooped above her — and behind her, the coyotes were back! Now Mopsy had two problems: one in the air and one on the ground.



Quietly, Mopsy spotted an old, rusty milk pail and dove underneath it to hide. Then — BANG! A loud sound rang out in the distance, and the whole pack raced off to see what it was.



Soon the coyotes came crashing back through the wheat. They searched and searched, but they could not find Mopsy. “We ran the wrong way,” one grumbled. “She played us,” sighed another. They had been tricked!



Nearby, two goats in hockey jerseys were watching a game on an old TV. The Baron rubbed his chin. “We strike after the game,” he said. “Me likes hockey!” said Bitey Boots.



Meanwhile, Mopsy was lost in the wheat. Then she heard a soft voice. Perched on a scarecrow was the owl. “My name is Ksiistsikomm. I come in peace. If I wanted to eat you, you would not be standing here.” He wasn’t a foe — he was a friend!



The owl gave her a wink and glided ahead, guiding, not chasing. Mopsy followed, step by step, until at last she saw her farm and its fence. Now she understood: the fence wasn't there to keep her in — it was there to keep danger out. “Bravery,” said the owl, “is learning how to return.”



Mopsy was safe at last! She had done it. She danced for joy. She WAS brave after all!



But far off, the coyotes were still plotting by the fence, their eyes glowing in the dark. Mopsy had excellent hearing, and she heard their plan for the goats. This time, she wasn't running away — she was running toward something bigger. She had goats to save! To be continued...

Teacher & Family Guide

Reading level: Grade 2 — Developing Reader.

Curriculum focus: Phonics (vowel teams, syllable types), fluency, and vocabulary in context (Alberta ELA & Literature — Grade 2).

Themes: Courage and growing up • Cleverness over strength • Friendship in unexpected places • Home as a place of safety • Doing the right thing even when afraid.

Key Words

Vocabulary from the story, chosen to match what readers at this level are learning to read and understand.

- **tattered** — old, torn, and worn out
- **lingered** — stayed behind instead of leaving
- **scarecrow** — a figure put in a field to scare away birds
- **guiding** — showing someone the way
- **fooled** — tricked
- **bravery** — the quality of being brave

Let's Talk About It — Questions

Comprehension questions for this grade, using Alberta's before/during/after reading strategies (recall, inferencing, predicting, visualizing, connecting, and analyzing).

1. In your own words, what problem did Mopsy face, and how did she solve it? (summarize)
2. Why did Snaggle-tooth Steve stay behind when the others ran? (inference)
3. How did Mopsy's feelings about the owl change from the start to the end? Why? (analyze)
4. What does the owl mean by "Bravery is learning how to return"? (interpret)
5. Predict: What do you think Mopsy will do to save the goats? (predict)

Sound Play — Phonemic Awareness

Short-sound activities that build phonological and phonemic awareness using words from the story.

Vowel teams

- **ea** — wheat, beast, sneak
- **ow** — owl, growl, prowl
- **ai** — afraid, wait, tail

R-controlled vowels

- **ar** — scarf, dark, sharp
- **ur / er / ir** — fur, her, return

Count the syllables

- crept (1), scare-crow (2), coy-o-te (3), un-a-fraid (3)

Open & closed syllables

- Closed (short vowel): pup, fox. Open (long vowel): he, go, hi.