Baby Bunny Understudy

by TheMissingDays

Cody gets more than he bargained for when he agrees to fill in for the Easter pageant.

I know Easter is still a little bit off but I decided to post this early, hope you enjoy.

The Costume Box
2024

Chapter 1

Baby Bunny Understudy

“Oh good Cody I found you” Mom said as Cody came up from the stairs of the church basement. “Are you finished moving those bins?” she asked.

“Yees,” Cody groaned.

“Great, I need your help with something else,” she said, grabbing his hand and leading him along down the hallway.

“Great,” Cody mumbled, as he followed along. The thirteen year old was none too pleased at having to be at church on a Saturday afternoon, he was especially bothered that he had to be here for the children's Easter pageant and festival.

His Mom had taken it upon herself to direct it that year, and that had meant that Cody had to attend each and every rehearsal. He didn't know why his Mom wouldn't just let him stay home alone, he was thirteen years old for crying out loud. Yet she never seemed to trust him with stuff like that. She still made him hold her hand when they crossed the street and she would set his clothes out for him in the morning. The worst thing however was the fact that she still made him sit in a booster seat in the car. Cody had begged her to get rid of the thing on numerous occasions. She refused though reasoning that he still wasn't tall enough, as much as Cody hated to admit it – she was right.

Cody was especially short for his age and he was mistaken

for being a little kid all the time by people that didn't know him. This had lead to more than one occasion of him nearly getting dragged into rehearsals for the Easter pageant by other parent volunteers mistaking him for one of the performers who were all in between the ages of three and six. Of course his Mom had been nearby to clear up the misunderstanding and let him retreat back to the side of the stage to his phone or homework. However that hadn't stopped her from on occasion using him to demonstrate a particular dance move or stage instruction for the kids.

As Cody was brought back to the familiar backstage area of the church auditorium he could see all the little kids dressed up in their costumes running around while the volunteers tried to corral them.

“Here,” Mom said shoving some clothing into Cody's arms. “I need you to get undressed and then put this on.” Cody looked down to see he was holding a fluffy white bunny costume. He recognized it immediately as the costume that Logan, a five year old boy was supposed to wear for his role as the baby Easter bunny.

“What are you talking about?” Cody gawked looking up at his Mom.

“Logan's Mom just called, seems like he's come down with the stomach flu,” she said with saddened look. “I need you to be the stand in.”

“I can't do that,” Cody yelped drawing some curious looks from some of the other kids.

“Cody please,” Mom said with a pleading look. “I'm in a real bind here, and I need your help. You're the only one who knows how the show goes and can fit into the costume.”

“But people will see,” Cody said. “What if one of my friends is here?”

“Its an event for little kids,” Mom said. “None of your friends are even here.” Cody furrowed his brow a little holding the fluffy costume in his hands. He had put up with more than enough having to come to the rehearsals and his Mom using him as a little helper. This was too much, there was no way she could ask him to do this.

“I-I can't,” Cody said pushing the costume away.

“The show won't work without the bunny, it would be a real shame to have to cancel it, especially after these kids worked so hard,” Mom said putting a hand on his shoulder. “And you know I would owe you big time after this.”

“What do you mean?” Cody asked a little intrigued.

“Well maybe the Easter bunny would see what a big help you were and might just slip a certain video game into someone's Easter basket as a thank you.” Mom said with a mischievous smirk. Cody felt a small smile come to his face. He knew exactly what game his Mom was referring to. He had been begging for it for weeks, but his Mom had refused saying he was too young. Which was ridiculous it was only rated T for teen – of which he most certainly was.

“Fine,” Cody said not able to turn down the offer.

“Great,” Mom said clapping her hands. “Go get dressed in the closet and then come out and I'll zip you up.” she instructed. Cody walked into the closet and got down to his underwear. He shuddered a little at the lime green briefs he was wearing. He wanted to switch over to something more mature but his Mom had just said he didn't need the room – a comment which even now made him blush.

Cody looked at the bunny costume and then back at his small scrawny frame. He saw the tag in the costume listed as 5t. He knew he was small, but there was no way he was small enough to fit into clothes meant for a toddler. He begrudgingly put the costume on, he figured when he showed his Mom it didn't fit that would be perfect. He had tried and she would still have to get him the game.

The costume was a one piece suit with a pink tummy and had feet and puffy hands attached that made it impossible for him to zip up. Cody came out to find his Mom waiting for him. She went behind him and zipped the costume up before then pulling the hood up which had two erect bunny ears on top. She fussed with his hair a little pulling a little coif of his sandy brown hair out from under the hood. With the costume fully on Cody was un-amused to find that the costume fit him like a glove, leaving little to the imagination. His Mom then took out some face paint and painted his nose pink and gave him three black whiskers on each cheek. Cody looked down at himself feeling completely ridiculous. Perhaps the worst part being the little puffball cottontail that was now prominently displayed on his butt.

“You look perfect,” his Mom cooed as she sat back to admire her work.

“Lets just get this over with,” Cody groaned as he went to take his place at the side of the stage. Cody waited for his cue holding the white basket with the few eggs in it. He couldn't believe he was doing this. The promise of a new video game was just too alluring for him, plus its not like the performance was all that long. All he had to do was say one line do a little song and dance and then he would be out of there. Perhaps he could even talk his Mom into letting him walk home after. They had walked to the church in the first place as they didn't live very far away. Even she would have to trust him to do something like that.

Cody heard his cue as he hopped on the stage, cringing a little as he heard some coo's as the audience seemed to do with all the little kids in their costumes on stage.

Geez can't they tell I'm not some little kid he thought before thinking it was perhaps better that they didn't recognize him as a thirteen year old boy in a bunny costume, especially with what came next.

Cody then made a little prat fall letting the eggs scatter across the stage.

“Oh no,” Mom said in her role as the narrator on stage into the microphone. “The little baby bunny has lost all his eggs.”

Cody took a deep breath.

“Whose gonna help me pick up all these eggs?” he said in a

mawkish tone eliciting some more chuckles and coo's from the audience. Cody sat on the ground waiting for the chorus of fairy girls to make their entrance, yet no such group appeared. An awkward silence descended upon the stage. Cody looked over to his Mom who gave a awkward smile. She twirled her finger at Cody wanting him to repeat the line. Cody gave a little huff.

“I said...Whose gonna help me pick up all these eggs?” he repeated louder. Cody looked over at the side stage. He could see the gaggle of fairys standing in group giggling and playing around with one another not paying a lick of attention to what was going on stage. A moment later a volunteer came running over and ushered them out onto the stage. Cody rolled his eyes a little, they had practiced this so many times and they couldn't even get it right come show time.

“A group of fairies appeared to help out the poor baby bunny,” Mom said, as the girls began putting the eggs back into a basket. Cody then went and stood in line with the other kids as they all began to sing the song. Cody didn't actually know the words but mouthed along. Finally it came to an end and the kids took their bow before filing off the stage to applause. Cody was beyond relieved to finally be done, now he could take the stupid costume off and forget this had even happened. Cody went to try and get the zipper in the back undone but found with the attached mitts no matter how much he struggled he couldn't get it undone. He groaned realizing he really was going to have to get some help. He looked around to find the backstage area was deserted. The

other kids had already dispersed into the crowd to go see their families. Cody walked down the steps and peeked out around the corner to see if he could spot his Mom. He didn't see her anywhere. Cody grimaced, he was going to have to go find her.

Cody walked into the sea of people slipping through the little holes of the crowd. He was looking everywhere but couldn't see his Mom anywhere. He had become so laser focused on finding her that he didn't see the person in front of him until he ran right into her knocking him down.

The older lady looked down to see Cody on the ground.

“Sorry sweetie, didn't see you there,” she said as she reached down picking Cody back up onto his feet. “You looking for your family?” she asked.

“Uh yeah I'm looking for my Mom,” Cody said.

“I'll help you,” the lady then said. Cody figured she had taken his comment in the wrong way believing he was lost. He was about to clarify that he could find her on his own but the lady had already grabbed his hand and was now leading him through the crowd.

“Don't be scared now, we'll find your Mommy soon,” she said. Cody tried to say something but found the crowd in the auditorium was drowning him out, not too mention he noticed the hearing aids the lady was wearing. Cody grimaced. She probably couldn't hear a word he was saying.

“There you are,” Mom said. “I was looking all over for you.”

The older lady let Cody's hand go with a smile.

“He ran into me in the crowd,” the older lady smiled. “He said he was lost, so I decided to help the little bunny out.”

“Thank you so much,” Mom said putting an arm around Cody's shoulder and pulling him close to her side. The lady's talked for a bit longer before saying their goodbyes. “I was coming to get you you know,” Mom said with a chuckle. She then took his hand and began leading him out of the auditorium.

“I want to get out of this thing as fast as possible and I can't get it off with these stupid mitts,” Cody grumbled.

“Its a good thing you still have it on, I need your help again,” Mom replied, as they began walking down a hall towards the front entrance.

“What are you talking about?” Cody asked nervous at his Mom's words.

“The kids are going to do an Easter egg hunt and we need you out there.” Mom said.

“I don't want to do an Easter egg hunt with a bunch of little kids,” Cody yelped.

“You aren't,” Mom explained. “I just need you to drop eggs on the ground as the little kids pick them up to replenish the stock. Pastor Dave was supposed to do it, but there was a little snafu with the costume rental place and he wasn't able to pick it up until this morning and he is currently stuck in

traffic but he should be here soon."

"But I want to take this thing off," Cody whined.

"I know honey," Mom said as they stepped into the atrium. "I was hoping to give you a little break before picture's as well."

"P-Pictures," Cody stammered.

"Yep, its right here on the flier," Mom said, as she unpinned a flier for the Easter festival off of the announcement board and showed it to Cody. "See the Easter pageant, then an Easter egg hunt and then pictures with the Easter bunny and baby Easter bunny," Mom said reading out the scheduled events.

"That wasn't the deal," Cody mewled.

"Its all part of the role, It was actually Logan's idea," Mom chuckled. "When he heard their were going to be pictures with the Easter bunny he insisted that the baby Easter bunny also be there and everyone thought it was such a cute idea."

Cody swore under his breath. He couldn't believe he had to go along with the whims of a five year old. He knew Logan from rehearsals and he was just the type of kid to insist upon something like this. He loved being the center of attention. If Cody ever saw that kid again he was going to punch him in the arm, not that he would ever hit a little kid but the thought did give him a little happiness.

Mom and Cody walked out the front door, before his Mom picked him up putting her on her hip.

"W-what are you doing?" Cody yipped surprised.

“We have to go to the field across the parking lot,” Mom said as she began to walk. “I don't want you getting the feet of the costume all dirty on the asphalt.”

Cody grumbled as he was carried in his Mom's arms. She did coddle him a fair bit, but at least she never picked him up and carried him like this. Walking across the field Cody could see there were all sorts of things set up. There were decorations strewn all about. There was a table with snacks and refreshments as well as a small stage where a band was setting up to play music. There were also lots of activities for little kids. Such as kiddie pools filled with sand, bucket toss games and a bubble station as well. Mom finally set Cody down in front of the area where the Easter egg hunt would be taking place. Brightly colored eggs were laid out in an area cordoned off by cones. Cody gave a side eyed look at the area. The eggs weren't even hidden, though he supposed this was meant for little kids in the first place.

As people began to populate the field Cody stood waiting. It wasn't too warm out and most people were wearing light spring jackets or sweaters. Cody's bunny costume was keeping him warm though. Mom then got on the stage taking the microphone announcing that it was time for the Easter egg hunt. She said it was okay for parents and older siblings to help out but the eggs were only for little kids. Cody looked out at the crowd gathering around the perimeter of the area. He didn't see anyone he recognized from school, which he was grateful for – he would probably die if any of his friends saw him dressed up like this. The egg hunt then began as the

kids and parents started collecting up eggs into baskets.

“Okay honey here is your basket,” Mom said handing Cody a wicker basket full of brightly colored plastic eggs filled with all sorts of sweets. “Just go drop them around in spots where there aren't any left.”

Cody rolled his eyes as he began to walk out.

“And don't forget to hop,” Mom said. Cody turned around with a scandalized look.

“Its for the little kids,” Mom said with a smile. Cody groaned but did as he was asked hopping across the field feeling incredibly stupid while he did it. Some of the kids took notice and began to hop behind him forming a little line which annoyed Cody knowing it was drawing all the more attention to him. He found that dropping a couple of eggs behind him though was enough to send the kids scattering.

Cody's legs were starting to get a little sore from all the hopping, he looked down to see that he didn't have all that many eggs left. Just a little more he thought.

Just then a little kid came careening into him obviously not watching where he was going. Cody fell onto the ground as the eggs spilled out of his basket, just like had happened in the play, except this time it was for real. Cody scrambled picking up the eggs and putting them back into the basket. With the mitts he was only able to pick one up at a time.

“Andrew watch where your going,” a girl said as the boy ran off. She knelt down next to Cody and began to help him put

the spilled eggs into the basket.

“Sorry about him,” the girl said as they finished picking up the eggs. Cody looked up at his helper before his eyes bulged. The girl was Courtney Smith, a girl from his class. She looked up at him with a smile before her face fell into astonishment.

“Cody is that you?” she asked in dis-belief. Cody tried to reply but could only sputter out an incoherent response. “Oh my god, it is you.” she said. “Was that you on the stage too?”

“My mom made me,” Cody yelped. “A kid got sick and they needed someone to stand in.” he muttered.

“I see,” Courtney said. “I didn't even recognize you up there,” Courtney said getting to her feet as she outstretched a hand towards Cody. He took her hand getting to his feet feeling his cheeks burning red hot. “Well you made for a convincing bunny,” Courtney said.

“Thanks,” Cody said pursing his lips.

“Although I couldn't help but notice you didn't know the words to the song,”

“Um yeah well I didn't actually rehearse that part.” Cody said. “I only found out about this right before it started.”

“So are you also going to be baby bunny for the photos?” Courtney asked.

“I guess,” Cody grumbled, cringing at the fact she had just called him baby bunny.

“Great,” Courtney said. “We totally have to get a picture together. You look really cute,” she giggled before running off after her little brother. Cody took the rest of the eggs and tossed them out hastily before retreating to the side.

“Good job,” Mom said coming to his side. “I got you a cold lemonade since you looked a little warm,” she said taking his still reddened cheeks from his run in with Courtney as a sign he was getting hot. His Mom twisted off the cap and held it up to his lips.

“I can hold it myself,” Cody snipped, as he took the bottle into his mitts and began to chug it down. All the hopping had given him a good work out and he had become thirsty. After he was done Mom grabbed his hand saying it was time to get ready for pictures as she lead him over behind a shed.

Behind the shed Pastor Dave was buttoning up his costume.

“Oh Cody, you're the baby bunny?” the pastor said a little surprised.

“Logan got sick at the last moment so Cody stepped in,” Mom explained as she then disappeared around the corner.

“I see,” Pastor Dave said with a chuckle. “Stepping up to help out Mom.”

“I guess,” Cody said. He watched as the pastor lifted a large rabbit head and put it on. Cody guessed it wasn't going to be so bad now that he wasn't the only one in a bunny costume and the Pastor's was certainly more eye catching than his. He was wearing a shiny blue and purple striped vest with a bow

tie, not too mention the large head. Cody wished he at least could have a mask of some sort as well.

“Okay take a seat,” Mom said coming around the corner pushing a stroller.

“What is that?” Cody gasped.

“Its your old stroller,” Mom said enthusiastically. “I'm actually surprised I even still had it, honestly I thought I had thrown it away ages ago, but with a little clean up its looking good as new. We thought it would be cute for the babies to get their pictures taken in their strollers along with the baby bunny in his.”

“I'm not sitting in that,” Cody exclaimed. Mom frowned a little before a small smile returned to her face. “Okay, okay, you don't have to sit in it for pictures, but at least let us wheel you over in it, you know for presentation, you'll also need this,” Mom said handing Cody another small item. Cody looked down in disgust to see that his Mom had handed him a pacifier. It had an orange plastic guard with a carrot on the button. “Its part of the costume,” Mom said.

“Logan couldn't have agreed to this,” Cody protested.

“ Like I said before it was actually his idea,” Mom said with a shrug. “He's the one that suggested the stroller and the pacifier.”

Cody felt his mouth drop a little, that just couldn't be right. Although the more Cody thought about it the more believable it became. This was all just another ruse for that kid to siphon

of as much attention as he could. Cody grimaced. Did that kid actually want to be a baby or something?

“Cody,” Pastor Dave then spoke up. “You know these pictures are for charity so the more we put into it the more money we can raise, by playing along you would be helping out a lot of people in need.”

Great, Cody thought, now he was getting guilt tripped by a priest.

Fine,” Cody said sitting down into the stroller with a huff, but I'm getting out as soon as we get out there.”

“Wonderful,” Mom said with a smile as she knelt down and strapped him in. “Don't forget this,” she said slipping the pacifier into his mouth. “Think about it this way,” Mom said tapping the button of the pacifier with her finger. “With that in your mouth you won't need to put on a big smile all afternoon.”

Mom then took the handles of the stroller and pushed it out across the grass as the Pastor walked beside them.

The sight of the giant Easter bunny and the baby bunny in his stroller certainly caught more than a few eyes. Cody was wheeled up to some hay bales sat on the edge of the parking lot. A large crowd had already gathered as another man set up a camera on a tripod. Mom was already in front of the crowd getting people organized into a line.

Cody went to undo the straps of the stroller but found that he couldn't work the buttons through his mitts. He gave a little

groan behind the pacifier realizing he was stuck. He waited impatiently as his Mom was still busy, he noticed that some people were already snapping pictures of him with their phones.

After what seemed like an eternity Mom finally came over and released him from the stroller. Cody was lead over to one of the hay bales taking a seat cross legged on top while Pastor Dave was on a hay bale next to him. As the kids starting coming up Cody found that when given the choice the little kids seemed to prefer sitting next to him when compared to the giant bunny, although Pastor Dave was always the one holding the infants.

To Cody it wouldn't have been so bad if he just had to sit there, however the kids were all treating him like some stuffed animal as they would glomb onto him. One little girl got so overzealous that she had her arms wrapped around his neck as she held him close petting the the ears on his head.

There seemed to be no end to the line. Cody was beginning to wonder just how long he was going to have to put up with this. Not too mention he really needed to go to the bathroom after chugging that lemonade some time ago. It was getting so bad he was scrunching his legs together in desperation. Cody looked around not seeing his Mom anywhere. Another group of kids came up. There was a baby which Pastor Dave was given. The other two were a little girl with pigtails and a boy who had a ring of red around his mouth no doubt put there from eating the cupcakes on sale at the bake sale stand. Cody recognized the girl from the pageant, her name was

Amber and much to Cody's absolute annoyance she seemed to have a little crush on him. She had followed him around incessantly at the rehearsals, vying for his attention, despite Cody's best efforts to avoid her.

“Cody, Cody, Cody,” she sang taking a seat on the hay bale next to him. “You look so cute as the baby bunny,” she squealed.

“Bunny,” the little boy said cuddling into Cody's arm. Cody withdrew his arm quickly to avoid getting any red stains on his snow white sleeve.

“Okay everybody smile.” the photographer said. Cody adopted his neutral expression looking towards the camera. He felt Amber patting his leg.

“Cody you're not smiling,” she said. Cody gave a side eyed glance chewing a little on the pacifier in his mouth. She then reached up plucking the pacifier out of his mouth. “You gotta smile,” she said as she started to tickle his sides.

Amber had discovered something unfortunate about Cody. At one point during rehearsals when Mom had made Cody her unwilling demonstration she had given Cody a little tickle to his side to shake off his grumpy demeanor and Cody had let out a little giggle. He couldn't help it, he was extremely ticklish and he hated it. Upon seeing that, Amber had taken to trying to tickle him anytime he had been trying to rebuff her cloying attempts.

“Tickle tickle,” Amber cooed. The little boy had joined in

seeing the fun that was happening. Cody was helpless as he squealed and giggled falling onto his back as he squirmed under the onslaught of the two little tormentors. That's when Cody felt himself let loose as the warm feeling spread in his crotch.

“S-s-stop,” he pleaded breathlessly yet the two kids did not let up.

“Amber, Frankie,” a lady's voice called out sternly. “You stop that this instance.” a lady said as she walked up to the hay bale pulling the kids hands away. “You leave that little boy alone right now.”

She lifted Cody back up into a sitting position. He looked shell shocked as he looked down at his crotch. To his great luck it didn't look like his accident had soaked through to the costume, yet his underwear was sodden and wet. “Don't cry now sweetie,” the woman cooed mistaking Cody's expression for being upset with the tickling. “Here's your paci back,” she said slipping it back into his mouth before looking at the other two kids. “Now you two stop messing about, I want a nice picture.”

“Sowwy Mama,” the little boy said. The photographer then took the picture before the kids were ushered away before they could cause more trouble. Pastor Dave then held up his hand and Mom appeared leaning in close to whisper something. Mom then nodded as she went in front of the crowd.

“Hey folks we need to take a quick ten minute break to give

our bunnies a breather," she said. Pastor Dave then stood up stomping his foot a little to try and wake his leg up. Mom went over to Cody picking him up into her arms.

"Lets get you inside to cool down a little and you can take a bathroom break," she said. Cody looked at her with wide eyes, fearing that she knew what had happened.

"It wus'nt muh bault," Cody said muffled by the pacifier. His Mom smiled taking the pacifier out of his mouth as they walked across the parking lot.

"What was that?" Mom asked. Cody shook his head realizing his Mom had no idea of what had happened.

Coming into the church entrance way his Mom set him on his feet before taking his hand as they walked towards the bathrooms. His Mom was going on about how big of a draw he apparently was and how they had nearly raised three hundred dollars already. They finally made it to the bathrooms. Mom pulled Cody in.

"I can't be in here," Cody gasped thinking his Mom had dragged him into the woman's bathroom.

"Its the family restroom," Mom chuckled.

"Can't I have a little privacy," Cody said furrowing his brow. He couldn't let her see what had happened.

"There is a stall right over there," Mom said pointing to a bathroom stall near the back, and I want to touch up your face paint a little afterwards, here let me help you with the zipper,"

Mom said. Cody tried to get away, but Mom already had the zipper down before pulling the costume down to his ankles causing Cody to let out a squeak of embarrassment. He saw his Mom's eyebrows raise upon seeing the dark spot on the front of his underwear.

“Oh dearie me,” Mom said.

“It wasn't my fault,” Cody shuddered feeling tears come to his eyes. Mom lifted Cody's legs pulling the costume off of him completely.

“I know, I know, “ Mom said with a calm voice, as she felt the inside of the costume. “The good news is the costume is okay, so it was just a small accident.” She stood up walking over to a cabinet that was near a baby changing station folded up on the wall. “We'll just get you cleaned up, I think they keep some wet wipes in here.” Mom said. She opened the cabinet and pulled out a package of baby wipes. “We just need to figure out what to do with those undies.” She said digging around for a moment. “I think this might work,” Mom said turning around. Cody's mouth dropped seeing his Mom had a baby diaper in her hand.

“You're out of your mind,” Cody shouted.

“I don't think we have a lot of options sweetie,” Mom said with a sympathetic look. “I don't think they have any spare undies floating around here.”

“Mom please,” Cody quivered.

“Its not that big of a deal,” Mom said unfolding the changing

station from the wall. She turned around picking Cody up off the ground and laying him on the table. “Now just relax and we'll have you cleaned up in no time. She then stripped Cody's wet underwear off of him quickly.

“Mooom,” Cody yelped as he went to cover himself.

“Honestly Cody I'm your mother, you don't have anything I haven't seen before. Now wipe yourself down.” Mom said handing him a wet wipe before she turned around to dig the face paint out of her purse setting it out on the counter.

Cody went to wipe himself but the wipes were so cold that he could only dab himself before pulling his hand away.

“We don't have much time,” Mom said walking over and taking a fresh wipe from the package. “We'll be here all night with you going so slow,” she tutted as she took over. Cody squeaked as he felt his Mom wipe him down. The coldness of the wipes mixed with the extreme embarrassment was overwhelming him.

“Okey dokey,” Mom said unfolding the diaper. “Lift up your hips a little.” she instructed. Cody covered his scarlet face as he did what his Mom said putting his feet onto the changing table and lifting up a little. Cody felt the soft material on his butt as his Mom pushed gently on his sides lowering him down. He heard a loud crinkle as he felt his Mom pull the front of the diaper up between his legs. Cody then felt the papery material tickle the bottom of his tummy as his Mom taped it into place.

“There all done,” Mom said lifting him off the table and setting him back on the ground. “That wasn't so bad now was it?” She pulled a little at the sides of the diaper and fussed a little with the leg gatherers. “It's just a tad bit tight,” she mused. She then proceeded to help him back into the costume. After she had him zipped up she hoisted him onto the counter and touched up his face paint.

“Mom can't Pastor Dave just do the rest on his own?” Cody pleaded finally having regained enough composure to speak.

“I know you're not thrilled with how things are going,” Mom said sympathetically. “But I've gotten so many compliments on you. You're quite the star out there. So many parents have said what a great idea this was. A lot of the little kids feel more comfortable sitting with you than they would with Pastor Dave and his big costume, you know little ones can sometimes get scared of stuff like that.”

“I know but I'm...” Cody trailed off not even able to bring himself to say the rest of his sentence.

“Just a little longer, okay,” Mom said as she helped Cody off the counter. “And look nobody can even tell,” she said as she put her hands on his shoulders turning him around to face the mirror. Cody was a little surprised to see himself. It was the first time he actually saw what he looked like in the costume. He totally did look like a little kid, it was no surprise now that no one had laughed at the preposterous sight of a thirteen year old dressed up in a bunny costume or questioned why someone of his age had been in a pageant meant for little

kids. To all those people he was a little boy, no older than any of the other children. Cody looked down. He could see there was now a slight bulge. He twisted around a little his face going a little red as he heard the rustle of the diaper underneath. As he looked at his behind with the little cottontail he could swear that the extra padding was noticeable, he just kept telling himself that was only because he was focusing on it. His Mom had finished packing up the face paint into her purse before she picked him back up putting him on her hip.

“Mom,” Cody whined a little.

“Shhh,” she cooed as she slipped the pacifier back into his mouth. “We'll leave just as soon as the pictures are done. Now lets get the little bunny star back out there,” she said bouncing him up and down a little. Cody continued to suck on the pacifier more out of an anxious dread rather than gleaming comfort from the infantile act. As they walked Cody cringed hearing the rustle of the diaper and squirmed at feeling of the padding pushing against his skin.

They were back at the haybales as Mom set Cody back down on his hay bale. The pastor was already seated as well. The photo session continued as the line moved. After another thirty minutes Cody could see they had finally made it down to the last few groups. His eyes widened a little as he saw the next group was Courtney and her little brother. Courtney wasted no time in taking a seat next to him as her little brother, being one of the braver kids of the day was seated in the pastor's lap.

“You look adorable,” Courtney gushed. “That pacifier is just so perfect it really brings the look together. Here sit on my lap for the picture,” Courtney said. Cody went to try and refuse but Courtney had already dragged him onto her lap as she wrapped her arms around his belly trapping him. Cody squeaked a little. Being on her lap, there was no way she wouldn't notice the diaper. The photographer snapped the photo. Afterwards Courtney pulled out her phone.

“Selfie time,” she said holing her camera up as she touched cheeks with Cody and took her own photo.

“You can't post that,” Cody hissed as his pacifier fell out of his mouth.

“Oh don't worry,” Courtney said. “I wouldn't do something like that.” She then released him before standing up and turning towards him. “You know I've been trying to work up the courage to tell you something for awhile and I just couldn't.” She said with a nervous smile. “But with you in that costume I feel like its easier now.” Courtney then slipped a piece of paper into the collar of Cody's costume. “I kind of like you, that's my number so text me, kay” Courtney then picked up the pacifier and plopped it back into Cody's mouth as he looked on gormless. Courtney then giggled as she ran off.

Cody blinked a few times in dis-belief only being brought back by the chuckle he heard from the pastor. Cody's shot a harried look at the man as the pastor gave a fake cough averting his gaze.

The last few groups came and went. The photographer was packing up as Mom came over to Cody.

“Ready to go?” she asked. Cody nodded. His Mom then lifted him up and set him back into the stroller before strapping him in.“Okay everybody the bunnies are going to leave now to go and get the Easter baskets ready for next weekend,” Mom announced to some of the kids that were gathered about. “Wave bye-bye,”

The kids waved and shouted goodbye, as Mom wheeled Cody back towards the shed with Pastor Dave. Getting behind the shed Pastor Dave wasted no time in taking off his head.

“Woah that thing gets hot,” he exclaimed as he started to unbutton the rest of the suit. “How you doing Cody?”

“Fwine,” Cody mumbled around the pacifier before he spit it out realizing he still had it in his mouth.

The Pastor already had stepped out of suit and was now in a t-shirt that had a large wet spot going down his back. “I'm ready for a shower.” he said shaking out his shoulders.

“I can take both of the costumes in for dry cleaning and then return them.” Mom said as she packed the Pastor's costume into a duffel bag along with the head.

“Thanks, that would be a big help.” The pastor said before kneeling down in front of Cody. “You did a really generous thing today Cody, you should be proud. I daresay you saved the day.”

“Um thanks,” Cody said as the Pastor chuckled a little giving Cody a gentle punch to his shoulder. He then left leaving Cody and his Mom alone.

“Can I get out of this thing now?” Cody grumbled to his Mom.

“Why don't you just stay in there, we have to walk home and I don't want the costume to get too dirty on the way back.” Mom said.

“But Mom,” Cody yelped. His Mom knelt down in front of him.

“If you wear it home then we don't have to wait for you to change, and we can leave right away.” Mom said before she started stroking the side of his head a little. “You know seeing you in your old stroller again is making me feel nostalgic, so just indulge me a little and I'll order pizza from Gino's for dinner,” she said. Gino's was Cody favorite restaurant in town and their pizza was really good. Cody didn't get to eat it that often though as his Mom didn't like ordering out. He really did want to get away from the church as soon as possible and the thought of having to walk home with the added bulk of the diaper between his legs wasn't exactly an alluring proposition.

“Fine,” Cody said as he furrowed his brow and crossed his arms. “But it has to be an extra large pizza and I want to go to the store and get that game tomorrow.”

“Of course,” Mom said as she popped the pacifier back into

his mouth. “A deal is a deal,” she said tapping the button of the pacifier with her finger.

True to her word, Mom had left straight away from the church. Cody was sat in the stroller as they walked down a quiet street. He absentmindedly sucked on the pacifier not for a second realizing that his Mom never said he had to keep it in his mouth. The peacefulness of the afternoon along with the gentle bounce of the stroller was causing his eyes to droop a little. He was incredibly exhausted from his embarrassing and bizarre day. Before long Cody fell asleep.

Some time later Cody awoke on the couch in the living room of his house. He sat up hearing the crinkle of the diaper as he stretched his arms out. He yawned as the pacifier fell out of his mouth. He looked down surprised that he had kept it in his mouth even as he slept. He then saw that he was still in the bunny costume.

“Have a nice nap,” Mom said cheerily as she walked into the room.

“Why didn't you wake me up?” Cody said with some annoyance.

“You were out like a light,” Mom shrugged. “I mean you didn't even wake up when I wiped the face paint off of your face. Figured you needed the rest.” Cody was about to say something before his Mom cut him off. “C'mon I'll help you take that costume off now.” She said motioning him over to her.

Cody got up eagerly as he walked over to his Mom. She unzipped him and pulled the costume off of him.

“What's this?” she asked picking up the slip of paper that Courtney had given him as it flitted down onto the ground..

“That's mine,” Cody squeaked, grabbing it out of his Mom hand. She merely gave a little smile as she gathered the costume up.

“Go take off that diaper and hop into the shower, I already ordered the pizza so it should be here in twenty minutes or so.”

Cody didn't need to be told twice as he scurried out of the room. Mom gathered the bunny costume off the ground as she put it on a hanger before hanging it on a hook near the door to remind her to go to the dry cleaner's tomorrow. She picked up a sleeve as she rubbed the material between her fingers a little. She smirked a little. She had seen the numbers on the slip of paper along with a girls name it didn't take a genius to figure out what it had been.

“Guess my little bunny is growing up,” she said with a laugh.

THE END