

The Rabbit's Cloud Ladder



Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

The Rabbit's Cloud Ladder

Ebru Mina TOMURCUK



Lily the rabbit lived in a cozy burrow at the edge of a green meadow. Every morning she tied her sky-blue scarf with tiny white clouds and packed her tan satchel. She loved to explore, but she always looked before she leaped. One sunny day, she spotted something strange behind the old oak tree. A tall ladder made of twisted vines and silver light stretched up, up, up into the sky.



Lily's round amber eyes grew wide. The ladder seemed to hum softly, and its rungs glowed like moonlight. She touched the first rung with a shaky paw. 'I should be careful,' she whispered. 'But I also want to be brave.' She took a deep breath, held her satchel tight, and began to climb. The meadow grew smaller and smaller below her.



Higher and higher went Lily, past fluffy white clouds that looked like cotton candy. The air smelled sweet, like fresh grass after rain. Her long ears flapped in the breeze, and her scarf danced behind her. At last, she stepped off the top rung onto a soft, cloudy path. 'Wow,' she breathed. 'I'm walking on clouds!' She looked around, her heart thumping with excitement and a little fear.



Suddenly, Lily heard a tiny, sad bleat. Behind a puffy cloud, she found a little lamb with wool as soft as a cloud and big dark-blue eyes. A silver bell on a red ribbon jingled softly around its neck. 'Hello,' said Lily gently. 'I'm Lily. What's your name?' The lamb sniffled. 'I'm Pip,' it said. 'I'm lost, and I can't find my flock.'



Pip's wool sparkled faintly, and his little tail drooped. 'I was chasing a butterfly,' he explained, 'and now everyone is gone.' Lily sat beside him. 'Don't worry,' she said. 'We'll find them together. But first, let's think. Where did you last see your flock?' Pip pointed to a tall, wispy cloud shaped like a hill. 'Over there,' he said. 'But I'm scared to go alone.'



Lily looked at the wispy cloud hill. It seemed far away, and the cloud path had a gap. She thought carefully. 'We can jump across if we hold hands,' she said. 'I'll go first and test it.' She took a running leap and landed safely on the other side. 'See? It's not so scary. Now you try, Pip!' Pip gulped, then jumped. Lily caught him, and they both giggled.



They walked until they met a friendly cloud bird. 'Have you seen a flock of sheep?' Lily asked. The bird chirped, 'Yes! They floated toward the rainbow bridge.' Pip's eyes lit up. 'That way!' But the rainbow bridge was high and narrow. Lily looked at Pip. 'We must be brave and careful,' she said. 'One step at a time, and don't look down.'



The rainbow bridge sparkled with colors. Pip's stubby legs trembled. 'I can't do it,' he whispered. Lily took his hoof. 'Yes, you can. I'll count our steps. One, two, three...' They walked slowly, and Lily's calm voice helped Pip feel safe. Halfway across, a gust of wind blew Lily's scarf. She caught it, but the wind pushed them sideways. 'Hold on!' she cried.



They made it to the other side, breathless but safe. Pip's bell jingled with relief. 'You're so brave, Lily,' he said. Lily smiled. 'Being brave means being scared but trying anyway.' They followed the rainbow bridge until it ended at a big, fluffy cloud castle. 'My flock might be inside,' Pip said, but the castle gate was closed. Lily knocked. A sleepy cloud giant opened one eye. 'Who disturbs my nap?'



Lily stepped forward. 'Please, sir, we're looking for Pip's flock. Have you seen them?' The giant yawned. 'Maybe. But first, answer my riddle: what gets wetter the more it dries?' Lily thought hard. 'A towel!' she said. The giant chuckled. 'Smart rabbit! Your flock is on the other side of the castle, in the star meadow.' He opened the gate wide.



They hurried through the castle and out to a meadow full of twinkling stars. There, a large cloud sheep with gentle golden eyes and a garland of stars and moons around her neck was calling, 'Pip! Pip!' Pip bleated with joy and ran to her. 'Mother!' he cried. The mother ewe nuzzled him. 'My little lamb, I was so worried!' She turned to Lily. 'Thank you, brave rabbit.'



Lily's heart felt warm and full. 'You're welcome,' she said. 'Pip was brave too.' The mother ewe smiled. 'You both were. Courage and good judgment are a fine pair.' She gave Lily a tiny star from her garland. 'For your journey home.' Pip hugged Lily. 'Will you come back and play?' Lily nodded. 'I'd love to. But now I must go before it gets dark.'



Lily climbed back down the cloud ladder, the star glowing in her satchel. She felt proud and happy. When she reached the meadow, the sun was setting, and the first stars appeared. She touched the star from the cloud sheep and made a wish: to always be brave and kind. Then she hopped home to her cozy burrow, her sky-blue scarf trailing behind her.



The next morning, Lily woke up to find a tiny cloud lamb-shaped cookie on her doorstep. She smiled, remembering her adventure. She knew that Pip was safe with his flock, and that made her heart sing. She packed her satchel and went out to explore, ready for whatever came next. After all, the world was full of surprises, and she was ready for them.



From that day on, Lily looked at the clouds a little differently. Sometimes she saw a fluffy lamb shape and waved. Pip would wave back from high above. She learned that adventures can be scary, but with courage and careful thinking, they can turn into something wonderful. And she always kept the little star close, a reminder of her brave journey.



And so, Lily the rabbit lived happily, always ready for a new adventure. She knew that being brave didn't mean never being afraid—it meant facing your fears with a smart plan and a kind heart. The cloud ladder still stood behind the old oak tree, waiting for the next brave soul. But for now, Lily was content to dream of Pip and the star meadow, and to know that she had helped a friend find home.