

The Wedding

Easter 2020



Donation €5.00
Aoife Cashman



A special word of thanks

I would like to thank my pet rabbits for giving me the idea to write this book. I hope I have captured the “fiction” of what a rabbits wedding would be like.

I would like to thank my Granddad John in Connemara for interacting with me electronically. I would also like to thank my Mum and my Nana. I normally would be a regular visitor to my Grandparents home in Connemara. As my Granddad has sponsored the booklet I will be donating in full any receipts received for the first 50 booklets and any extra after printing exps to the Animal Equine Rescue Centre Mallow



The Wedding

Chapter One

The Planning

It was a Monday and Clover was making breakfast for Parsnip. When Parsnip just hopped into the kitchen, he stamped his back feet and said Clover, have you looked at good locations for our wedding? Not yet Clover replied. I will look at it later. Ok, is breakfast ready? Yes Parsnip dig in. Mmm said Parsnip it smells good, thanks.

So Parsnip started eating his breakfast and was a bit bored so he turned on the news to hear the headlines” Breaking news there is a new disease about, it’s called Covid 19”, Oh my God Parsnip said Clover will it affect us. To stop spreading it you can’t socialise or do sports or any gatherings such as parties or weddings.

Oh no we will have to cancel our wedding Parsnip. What will we do? I don’t know said Clover. Before they heard the news Parsnip and Clover were just about to prepare a plan for their wedding.

Thanks to Covid 19 we may have to cancel our wedding said Parsnip. Don't worry said Clover we'll figure out a way to have our wedding. I hope we can, said Parsnip.



Clover and Parsnip watching the Breaking News

Chapter Two

Solving the Problem

It was Tuesday morning and once again it was breakfast time. There was no sign of Clover; this was surprising as Parsnip was preparing her favorite dish which of course was lettuce and pellets. Parsnip shouted aloud – “Clover, Clover where are you” but there was no sign of her. Parsnip went outside the burrow and once again started shouting out her name. Parsnip started searching for her, he looked all around but there was no sign of her. Then he heard sobbing and he found her amongst the ferns with her eyes in floods of tears. Come inside said Parsnip and enjoy your favorite dish and tell me why you are crying? “I am crying because I cannot go ahead and plan our wedding because of the virus”.

I was also sad and disappointed and that’s why I went for an early morning walk, luckily I met one of my ‘surprise’ friends the wise old Owl. I told him our sad story but the wise old Owl said go and plan your wedding, Covid 19 restrictions will not affect rabbits: the lockdown only applies to humans – “GO AND PLAN YOUR WEDDING”.

Chapter Three

Venue and Guest List

So the next day Parsnip and Clover started looking for a venue. A beach, “no” a forest, “no”. Then where will we have it? I have an idea why don’t we have it here. “Yes that’s a great idea” said Parsnip but we will need extra space let’s get Cucumber and his friends to extend the burrow said Clover. It will also mean that there will not be unnecessary travelling involved. They then decided to get married on Easter Sunday, now they needed to start decorating. They would also make a guest list, organise food, find someone to marry them, organize the after party and find something to wear. Oh no said Clover we have so much to do.

We also need a bridesmaid and a best rabbit. Firstly they organized the guest list. They both agreed that in view of the Virus they should only invite local rabbits. We know that Covid 19 does not apply to rabbits at this time but it’s better to be on the safe side said Clover “Who should we invite”. Definitely our parents and close friends, Carrots, Broccoli and Lettuce.

Ok but should we invite, Shamrock, Daisy, Poppy and Buttercup. "Yes definitely ". The next day they decided to also invite Mushroom, Celery, Strawberry, Ash and Oak. Who should we get to marry us said Clover? The wise old Owl said Parsnip, do you realize that he married my parents and grandparents said Parsnip. Is he that old said Clover, yes said Parsnip, Owls live five or six times longer than rabbits. Clover said that's fine but remember Owls do not like brightness they prefer early morning and twilight.



The Wise Old Owl inspects the Guest list in the Moonlight.

Chapter Four

Final Preparations

The first thing to do now is choose our bridesmaid and best rabbit said Clover; you go first said Parsnip and select your bridesmaid. I will pick Petals my best friend from work. "Who are you selecting for best rabbit" I think I will ask Cucumber "he is giving me hints for some time" said Parsnip.

We will keep our clothes a secret and surprise everyone on the day said Clover. That's a good idea said Parsnip, where are you getting your fur done? Petals and I are using Rose the fur dresser, where are you going? Jack and I will use Radish the fur barber. The music is simple said Clover, Carrots knows that a rabbits favorite music is classical and repetition, fully agree said Parsnip let's get him but you need a few dance lessons said Clover, "Don't want you walking on my paws in front of all the guests".

What about the wedding transport said Clover?

I will surprise you and get you a brown coated animal to deliver you said Parsnip, hope it's not a fox said Clover, "ha ha ha".

Finally, the menu, the starter will be a selection of fresh hay said Clover and main dish will be Carrots a la Bunny said Parsnip that's fine said Clover but don't forget to keep an eye on Carrots we both know why he got his name, "ha ha ha" and what about the desert said Parsnip? How could you have a rabbits wedding without a lettuce salad said Clover and they both laughed.

Let's see what's happening in the main burrow said Clover. Petals and Cucumber were helping with the decorations and their families were sorting out the food. Their siblings were setting the tables "why couldn't we do the food "said Carrots grumpily."Cause you would eat it all "replied Broccoli. Thanks to Covid 19 said Parsnip we will be able to plan our wedding on the sandy dunes outside the burrow weather permitting. That would be lovely said Clover but what about all the people walking their dogs on the sandy beach? Because of the Virus humans are in **LOCKDOWN** and not allowed on the beaches. But what about the tourists said Cucumber they may ignore the regulations.

Not to worry said Parsnip, the Garda will be patrolling especially the beaches.

After a while when everything was ready everyone decided to call it a night.



The Wise Old Owl checks that everything is in order

Chapter Five

The Wedding

The next day, finally this was the day and the Sun was shining, Clover and Petals were getting ready and so were Parsnip and Cucumber. All the guests arrived at 8.30 and settled down on straw blankets waiting for Parsnip and Clover to come. After a while Parsnip arrived and sat beside the wise old Owl who had made a special concession to marry them in the Sunlight.

Meanwhile outside in the tree's, Apple the little Pony was eating grass until Shamrock shouted at him "Apple you're supposed to be picking up Clover". Oops I forgot realised Apple "I'm getting her and Petals right now and with that galloped off through the trees to collect Clover and Petals. A few minutes later Apple arrived at Clovers house. "Clover, Petals come on its time to go "shouted out Apple. "Coming replied Clover and Petals, why are you late? That doesn't matter now Clover, I'll tell you later" replied Apple. Then let's go, Clover and Petals dressed in their new furs, hopped on the carriage and Apple started trotting.

Meanwhile Parsnip was starting to get worried about Clover asking rabbits if they knew where she was. Finally Clover and Petals arrived, thanks Apple said Clover. Then Apple trotted up to the wise old Owl and told him that they were here. Then Passion Fruit (Clovers dad) came up to Clover and started walking along side her.

As she was walking down the sandy dune she was waving to everyone and Cuddles was taking photos. When Clover reached the top, her dad walked over to his straw blanket and sat down. The Owl began the ceremony "Thank you all for coming here for this very special day that will unite Parsnip and Clover". I would like the parents to come up and do a reading. After the readings it was time for the most important part of the wedding, the exchange of rings. "Carrots , Carrots" said Owl wake up ,where are the rings. I don't know, I think I left them at Parsnips house "said Carrots ". Then come with me, so Carrots hopped on the Owls back and took off through the sky to get the wedding rings.

Carrots was still sleepy and gave the Owl wrong directions and they got lost momentarily. Finally Owl arrived at the house and Carrots hopped off to get the rings from under his pillow.

When Owl got back to the wedding everyone was asleep. "Wake up everyone we're back ". Once everyone was awake they resumed the wedding. Do you Parsnip take Clover to be your wife said Owl. "I do" replied Parsnip. "Do you Clover take Parsnip to be your husband "said Owl?"I do said Clover.

Then they put on each other's rings. You may now lick the bride said Owl. When all the guests left Cuddles came to take photos of Clover and Parsnip and their families. The new couple thanked Owl and Cuddles for their help and hopped into the carriage as Apple the little pony pulled them along to the reception burrow.



On the way to the Reception

Chapter Six

The Reception

The married couple took up a position at the entrance to the reception burrow to greet the guests as they arrived. The reception food was a sweet grass that Shamrock and Apple had brought from Castle Hill. The guests mingled for a while and then the wise old Owl shouted aloud, "Rabbits and bunnies take your seats in the dining area". When they were all seated the Owl started grace before meals and they all joined in. Everyone enjoyed the starter and then it was on to the main meal which of course was Carrots a la Bunny. Everyone was licking their lips as the dish tasted delicious except for Carrots who was sitting with his girlfriend Parsley. Carrots was the first to have licked his plate clean and was casting his eye on an unfinished plate when Parsley whispered to him "please do not touch the food on that plate and embarrass me".

While they were eating desert they started the speeches. The Owl was master of ceremonies and he called the best rabbit Cucumber.

Cucumber said all the nice things he could think of about the couple and then “Three cheers and raise your sweet grass with the couple”. When the speeches were complete the Owl said grace after meals. He finished by giving a special thanks to Farmer Brown from Castle Hill. “Finally I would like to thank Farmer Brown from Castle Hill for providing all the vegetables for today’s menu; all the guests clapped their paws.

The caterers cleared all the tables and they were now ready for dancing. Carrots assisted by Parsley commenced the music with a waltz. Parsnip and Clover were first on the floor with Parsnip showing off his new found dancing skills. After Clover and Parsnip’s first dance everyone came onto the dance floor and started dancing. Everyone danced the night away except for the poor Easter bunny that was sleeping on his blanket after a long morning of delivering all the Easter eggs. It was four am by the time the party was over and just before Clover and Parsnip snuggled up in their blankets they went outside and looked at the sunrise. “This was the best night ever” said Parsnip. “It was indeed” said Clover.



Clover and Parsnip take a break from the celebrations to watch the evening sunset.

Final Chapter

364 days later

Months later when travel lock down restrictions were eased Parsnip and Clover went on their honeymoon. 364 days later Parsnip and Clover were walking down the hall towards their bedroom, when they entered their kits(baby bunnies) hopped over for food after their long sleep. Clover sat down beside them while Parsnip sorted their food. Lots had happened during the last 364 days.

Parsnip and Clover had an exciting honeymoon travelling to all the well known forests and sand dunes all over Connemara. The wise old Owl and his friend Leafy flew them everywhere starting at the forest next door. They slept in a five star burrow each night. Their honeymoon lasted three weeks and while they relaxed and enjoyed exploring different parts of the forests and dunes the Owls went off visiting friends.

Clovers parents looked after their house while they were away.

Two weeks after they came back Clover gave birth to a litter of eleven kits, ten girls and one boy.

They called them Banana,Raspberry, Parsley, Blueberry, Cottontail,Daffodil, Lillie,Tulip,Rose,Rosie and Parsnip junior. All the bunnies got along and were very good for their mummy and daddy. Their favourite meals are lettuce, pellets and chopped carrots on the side. They all lived happily ever after.

That is the story of Clover and Parsnip's wedding. I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it?



Duskiness in the Evening

Dedication

I was inspired to write this book by the recent loss of my lovely pet rabbit Cuddles who I miss greatly.
He was Parsnip's brother.



Authors Note: My name is Aoife Cashman, from Mallow, Co Cork. I am eleven years of age. I would like to thank my pet rabbit Parsnip for inspiring me to write this story and my grandfather John in Connemara for his analysis throughout the mission. Thank's to Covid 19, I have developed this story but I would much prefer if it never happened - **that is the Virus of course!**