

# Rabbits and Rumblebumps

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Based on “How to Train Your Dragon” by Cressida Cowell

Today, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III and his tiny dragon Toothless had nothing to do. It was a holiday in memorial of an old chief of Berk, and so everyone had a day off of school and work. Hiccup and Toothless had already played fetch, hide-and-seek, and tag. They had also tried to play checkers, but Toothless swallowed a piece and Hiccup had to do the Heimlich Maneuver. Now Hiccup was trying to keep Toothless from eating his father’s oatmeal. Luckily, he spoke dragonese, the native language of dragons.

*“Toothless.” he told his dragon. “My father will want that when he wakes up from his nap. If you eat it, I won’t defend you from his anger when he finds out what you’ve done.”*

*“Oh, okay, I guess I will not eat it. I want a rabbit instead! Rabbits are yummy...”* Toothless replied. Hiccup agreed to help him hunt for a rabbit, and the two set off.

As Hiccup trudged across the marshy, wet bog covering the island, Toothless pranced along next to him, snapping at the seagulls and scaring off any potential prey. As they neared the cliff at the end of Berk, Hiccup pulled out his binoculars. Maybe he could dragon-watch while Toothless hunted. He saw a few Common-or-Garden dragons, a few Groncles, and one Monstrous Nightmare. Suddenly, all the dragons took off. Hiccup knew that Monstrous Nightmares don’t scare easily, so anything that could snap up a dragon as fierce as that could swallow Toothless without noticing.

*“Umm, Toothless?”* he called. *“Maybe we should head back.”* When his dragonese got no reply, he tried yelling in english. *“TOOTHLESS! Where are you, I don’t want my dragon gobbled up,”* he said.

*“Toothless is hungry, Toothless wants a rabbit. Toothless wants a rabbit NOW!”* said the little dragon. Hiccup sighed.

*“You know, I think I saw a whole burrow of delicious bunnies over there,”* he told Toothless, pointing away from the cliff back towards his hut. Toothless agreed to go look, and they headed towards a lump in the ground that looked suspiciously like a rabbit burrow. Toothless carefully crawled forward, being unusually quiet. Then, he pounced. It is a very marvelous thing, watching a dragon pounce. Even if that dragon is the size of a large squirrel. Toothless let out a loud rooster-like crow and started digging and snatching. Normally, the frightened rabbits ran right into his talons.

However, none appeared. Hiccup realized that they had made a terrible mistake. It was not a burrow that Toothless had pounced on- it was a sleeping dragon. And that dragon had just woken up. It had muddy brown scales and needle-like teeth. Its eyes were blazing orange, and it was wingless. It reared, and Hiccup was delighted to see that it was an unidentified species. Hiccup normally would've pulled out a notebook and started noting its various abilities, but he was currently occupied in saving Toothless.

*"Toothless, duck! Fly away! Come on, come on!"* he yelled. At that moment, Toothless saw a rabbit bounding towards the cliff edge.

*"Oh, Toothless will catch the yummy rabbit!"* declared Toothless. Hiccup watched in horror as Toothless dove over the cliff, chasing the rabbit. The huge dragon gave chase, but he seemed to forget that he didn't have wings. He plummeted over the cliff.

*"The tiny dragon has defeated me! NO!"* he roared in dragonese. Toothless flew back to Hiccup, holding the rabbit.

*"Toothless caught the rabbit. Toothless is a great hunter!"* he declared. Hiccup laughed, and then ran home to find his notebook and document the dragon. He thought he would name it the Rumblebump. Toothless began to happily devour the rabbit.

Just as they reached the door of his hut, a low growl came from behind them.

*"I will crush you!"* called the Rumblebump. He was a little bruised and very angry. Toothless squeaked, and darted into the hut. He came back out with one of the checkers pieces they had been playing with earlier.

*"I have a plan,"* said Toothless. He whispered in Hiccup's ear. Hiccup nodded.

*"Hey Rumblehorn! I bet you can't breathe fire,"* called Hiccup. The dragon opened his mouth wide to scorch Hiccup, and Toothless dropped the checkers piece into the dragon's mouth. He began to choke, and Hiccup grinned.

*"Nice job, Toothless,"* he told his dragon. They had defeated the Rumblebump!