



Adventures of Tchotchke

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Illustrated by Nina Mkhoiani

Age Range: 5-7

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What to Expect: Families, pets, responsibility, inclusion, helping others.

In this three-book compilation, a sweet and plucky rabbit guides readers through lessons about responsibility, care, and togetherness.

Tchotchke is a lovely bunny, and he is delighted to be adopted by a loving family at Easter. However, when the fun of having a pet wears off, the children in the family no longer want to do the work of playing and taking care of Tchotchke. Feeling sad and unloved, he hops out of the open door one day and leaves. But what is a rabbit to do all alone in the world? Tchotchke tries to learn how to be a duck and live in the park. He's not very good at swimming, though! Luckily, his family has learned their lesson—they arrive just in time to save him. Then, back with his family and feeling loved again, Tchotchke's bond with his family will be tested to the max when he gets injured on a camping trip. Through everything, Tchotchke and his family learn an important lesson—we have a responsibility to those who love us.

Young readers are sure to relate to Alex and Karla's excitement to have a pet—and are sure to share in their shame and worry when their neglect leads to Tchotchke being lost. There is also humor woven throughout the story, in the patient and weary

grumbles of their mom as she tries to keep everyone happy *and* responsible. Vivid digital illustrations bring the children and their pet to life, capturing the story's messages about togetherness and empathy through facial expressions and actions.

Adventures of Tchotchke is great for shared family reading—especially if some readers are agitating for a pet of their own.

—*The Children's Book Review*