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Opening extract from

# Jonadab and Rita

Written by

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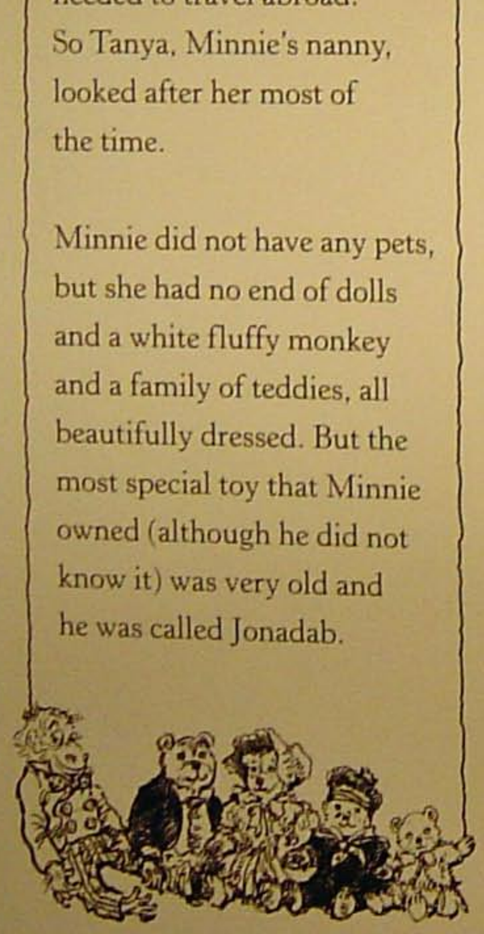
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Once there was a girl called Minnie who lived in a large, beautiful apartment in Notting Hill, London. Her mother and father went off to work each day very early and did not return until late at night. Sometimes they needed to travel abroad. So Tanya, Minnie's nanny, looked after her most of the time.

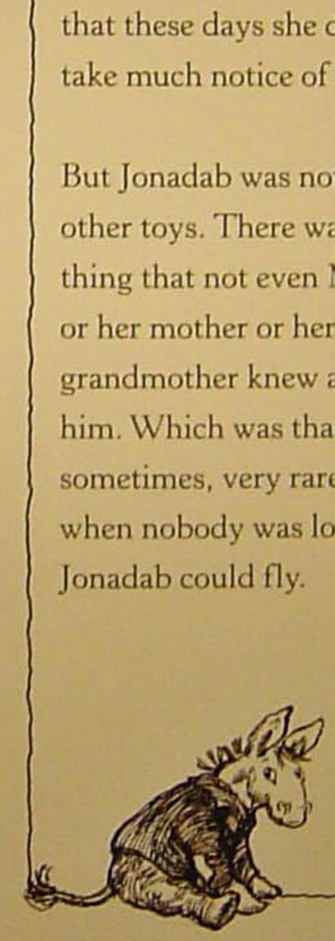
Minnie did not have any pets, but she had no end of dolls and a white fluffy monkey and a family of teddies, all beautifully dressed. But the most special toy that Minnie owned (although he did not know it) was very old and he was called Jonadab.





Jonadab was a donkey made of worn grey velvet. His ears pointed up when he was happy, and they flopped over when he was sad. He had belonged to Minnie's mother and her grandmother before that. He had been around in Minnie's toy box for so long that these days she did not take much notice of him.

But Jonadab was not like other toys. There was one thing that not even Minnie or her mother or her grandmother knew about him. Which was that sometimes, very rarely, when nobody was looking, Jonadab could fly.





The only other toy who suspected that Jonadab was somehow different from all the others was Rita, a small brown mouse with a multi-coloured tail. But she never told anybody.

When Minnie was very little, she always took Jonadab and Rita in the buggy with her when she and Tanya went walking in Holland Park. Minnie liked chasing the pigeons and making them fly up in front of her with a rush of wings. Jonadab longed to take off after them, but he knew it would never do to show off like that when he was out with Minnie.

