Spring is in the air, and along with the daffodils and tulips, out come the bunnies. Our Dozen this month celebrates those little fuzzy bunny critters that tend to multiply, well, by the dozens.

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Bunnies by the Dozen
A Bunny Dozen

Irreverent drawings and hilarious minimal text highlight how obsessive focus with the unattainable (in this case, a monster really really wants to play with bunnies) can shift in an instant once it is gotten.

Beaty, Andrea. Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies; illus. by Dan Santat. Amulet/Abrams, 2010. Gr. 3-5
Exaggerated illustrations, interspersed mini-comics, and frenetic, dorky middle-grade humor will draw readers into this goofy tale of a camp invaded by a trio of alien bunnies bent on world domination.

Dyckman, Ame. Wolfie the Bunny; illus. by Zachariah OHora. Little, 2015. 4-7 yrs
Sometimes, it takes someone else threatening what is yours to make you appreciate it fully, as in this whimsical take on a bunny who doesn’t embrace her adopted wolf brother until a bear eyes him as lunch.

Henkes, Kevin. Little White Rabbit; written and illus. by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow Books, 2011. 2-5 yrs
A bevy of vibrant spring pastels and a reassuring conclusion will have make-believers of all sorts appreciating this fanciful tale of a young bunny’s dreamy ruminations.

Kaplan, Michael. Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake; illus. by Stéphane Jorisch. Dial, 2011. 5-8 yrs
A precociously bubbly bunny learns a valuable lesson in patience after falling hard for the sweet taste of chocolate cake.

Knudsen, Michelle. Big Mean Mike; illus. by Scott Magoon. Candlewick, 2012. 5-8 yrs
It’s rare to find a book that will appeal to both the lovers of monster trucks and fans of fuzzy critters, but this humorous picture book following the friendship between one tough, hard-drivin’ dog and several adorable bunnies might just do the trick.

Lobel, Anita. 10 Hungry Rabbits: Counting & Color Concepts; written and illus. by Anita Lobel. Knopf, 2012. 3-6 yrs
A lively story rich with age-appropriate concept opportunities chronicles the various veggies that ten bunny siblings find and add to Mama’s simmering soup; Lobel’s illustrations are clear on the concepts and pretty darned adorable to boot.

Clever humor shines in the spare text of this chapterized beginning reader featuring chums Hippo and Rabbit.

A white rabbit observes the changes in nature in this quiet and spare animal story that has just a touch of the hush of winter in its tone.

Nyeu, Tao. Bunny Days; written and illus. by Tao Nyeu. Dial, 2010. 3-6 yrs
Controlled old-fashioned art recalls Crockett Johnson while poker-faced humor provides gentle silliness in this picture book following the mis-adventures of a flock of toylike bunnies and the tender assistance of their friend Bear.

Scieszka, Jon. Battle Bunny; by Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett, and Alex; illus. by Matthew Myers but mostly Alex. Simon, 2013. Gr. 1-3
Both a sendup of saccharine period picture books and a tribute to kid invention, this deliciously comic outing follows young Alex’s savage textual and illustrative transforming of a treacly bunny tale into a saga of a thwarted attempt at world rabbit domination.

Willems, Mo. Knuffle Bunny; written and illus. by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2004. 2-6 yrs
Ah, the bunny book to take all bunny books: the disappearance of Knuffle Bunny sends Trixie’s the family scurrying back to the laundromat in this hilarious microdrama portrayed with cartoon characters against black-and-white photographed backgrounds.