



# Little White Rabbit

A little white rabbit runs through the wood  
He just passed his quals and his spirits are good  
His thesis topic proposal is almost complete  
But he's being observed as a piece of fresh meat  
From the bushes along overgrown forest path  
Jumps a hungry rottweiler, with tenure in math  
He did not publish lately and thus got no raise  
Anger, malice and envy are distorting his face

When the scary rottweiler appears so near  
Poor little white rabbit starts shaking with fear  
Dear sir, I don't mean to sound imprudent  
Please spare my life, I'm a PhD student  
Only 3 years of funding and I work like a mole  
Plus, my lab is a dingy and dark rabbit-hole  
If you have any doubts that my story is true  
I can show my research conditions to you

His hunger subsides and the dog starts to laugh  
This must be a joke, you're not tough enough  
Your voice is so squeaky, you have no strong core  
A true doctoral student must be a carnivore  
I'll indulge you this once; go and show me your lab  
If you lied, I'll eat you and go drink at the pub  
So, they amble along until reaching a stump  
Next to which is a hole, and it looks like a dump

Down some rickety stairs they slowly descend  
Into dingy and dark, but quite large, rabbit den  
While dog's eyes are adjusting to lack of light  
He sees broken equipment, trash strewn left and right  
In the middle of all this, sits on a large throne  
A huge grizzled lion who is chewing a bone  
It's not hard to imagine what happened then  
Hungry rottweiler's tenure came to an end

As befits any story that ends well but starts dire  
There must be a moral that will readers inspire  
Your size doesn't matter and neither does voice  
Furthermore, thesis topic is a trivial choice  
A dark and cold lab with doors that don't lock  
Has no bearing at all on where you'll be a post-doc  
For what's important there is but one choice  
Your advisor matters and all else is noise