

Inside, the box was not a box. It was a world of doorways to Somewhere Else. Leon fell down, down, down, until he tumbled onto a carpet. "Hello," said a boy in blue pantaloons and trousers.

"Where am I?" asked Leon.

"This is the place between," said the boy.

"Between what?"

"Between there and back again. This is the place where magic sends you."

"Will you show me?" asked Leon. The boy smiled.

"Hold on tight."

He gave the carpet a tug. With a swoop, off they flew. Everything that disappeared by magic, appeared in the Place Between. Cards and doves fluttered in the lantern light. Coins and rings spun past, flashed and were gone. Ropes, cups and balls danced in the perfumed air. A magician's assistant stepped out of nowhere as another vanished in the blink of an eye! It was a world of astonishment. A world of the unexpected. It was alive with magic. The carpet came to rest. "Do you live here?" asked Leon, his eyes huge with wonder.

"No," said the boy. "But my father is a great magician. He makes me disappear every night. If I help him, he will teach me magic." Then Leon felt something soft wiggling behind him. A white rabbit climbed gently onto Leon's lap and nestled in his arms. The boy stroked her ears. "She is always here," he said sadly. "She was never called back."

Leon hugged the lonely rabbit and gazed around the Place Between, enchanted and amazed. Suddenly, the boy began to float away. "My father is calling," he said. "It is time to go." Leon waved. "Goodbye," he cried. "I'll never forget!" Then, from far away, he heard an echo of his own name. "Leon, come back to us. Leon, return..." Leon felt the magic lift him off the ground and back into darkness.

Leon heard a sharp tap. The door of the box opened before him. Leon stepped out with the white rabbit still in his arms. Abdul Kazam took a majestic bow. The crowd cheered and clapped. Tom and Little Mo clapped loudest of all.

"Did you really disappear?" asked Pete as they shuffled out into the night.

"Of course he did," said Tom. "See, this is a magic rabbit." He stroked her long, soft ears.

"But where did you go?" asked Little Mo.

Leon smiled. "I went to the place that magic takes you," he said.

"Can anyone go there?" sighed Little Mo with a yawn. Leon lifted her up onto his shoulders.

"Yes, anyone Mo," he said. "Anyone who believes."