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Bilba Meets the Easter Bunny

A note for grown-ups

Bilba's funniest adventure has a true story at its heart! Here are some wonderful facts about the real Easter Bilby — and a few questions to spark a conversation about kindness and welcoming someone new.

The Easter Bilby is real!

Since the 1990s, Australians have chosen chocolate bilbies instead of chocolate bunnies at Easter. It's a real tradition — celebrating a native animal instead of an introduced one.

Why not the Easter Bunny?

Rabbits aren't native to Australia. When they arrived, they multiplied into the millions and damaged the land — eating plants and taking over the burrows native animals need. So Barry isn't a bad rabbit, he's just not an Australian one!

Perfect Easter ears

Bilbies have long ears a little like a rabbit's — which is one reason they make such a wonderful Easter symbol for Australia. Big ears, big heart!

A true-blue marsupial

Like kangaroos and koalas, bilbies are marsupials — the mothers carry their babies in a pouch. Rabbits are not marsupials. Bilba and Barry are very different creatures indeed!

Chocolate that helps

Many chocolate Easter Bilbies raise money for bilby conservation. So choosing a chocolate bilby is a small, sweet way to help protect the real thing.

Endangered and precious

Fewer than 10,000 bilbies remain in the wild, in less than 20% of their former range. Conservation programs across Queensland, the NT, and WA are working hard to bring them back.

Talking points for after the story

- Barry was far from home and everything felt strange to him. Have you ever been somewhere that felt very different? How did it feel?
- Bilba was kind to Barry even though he was different from her. Why is it good to be kind to someone new?

- Would you choose a chocolate bunny or a chocolate bilby this Easter? Why?
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