

Artemus

Mail is disappearing from mailboxes in a rural neighborhood. Samantha Barnard works at the Post Office that serves the area and was asked to check into the situation.

“Park out of sight. See if anything or anybody appears suspicious,” her boss instructed. So, after her early morning mail delivery, Samantha sat in the mail car in an obscure spot to keep watch. Everyone in the neighborhood had left for work, leaving behind their empty houses in a seemingly lifeless neighborhood. After about 15 minutes, Samantha thought, “Nothing happening here” and decided to leave. Then, someone appeared.

He went from mailbox to mailbox and yard to yard. He seemed interested in picking violets and dandelions that grew at the base of the mailboxes and not at all interested in people’s mail. He couldn’t reach or open the boxes anyhow. He was a tiny black bunny.

Samantha cares about animals and was concerned the defenseless tiny bunny, seemingly only a few months old, was out on his own. Abruptly her mission switched from stolen mail to rabbit rescue. Samantha knew she would never be able to catch the little “speedo.” He was very quick. He did not hop. He zipped and zoomed and darted and dashed. She also knew he wasn’t going to have anything to do with her trying to talk, coax, or reason with him. Also, she thought, “What if there is someone in one of these houses watching me as I run all over the homeowners’ properties in pursuit? I would become the suspicious person and probably get reported in a 911 call.” This was a complicated situation for sure. Samantha’s only option: “I’ve got to surprise the little bunny, secure him, and exit out of here as fast and inconspicuously as possible.”

The little bunny at last settled down and concentrated on serious grazing on the large expanse of lawns. “Now’s my chance,” Samantha thought. Carrying a large mail tub, she walked briskly up behind the bunny. In one fell swoop she slammed the tub over him and just as quickly flipped the tub upright. Peering down into the tub, she saw the feisty little bunny chewing on a mouthful of grass. Just then realizing what had happened, the bunny peered up at her, eyes wide with surprise.

Despite her humane intentions and the ultimate success of her compassionate mission, Samantha felt a little guilty. “I bum rushed him, but it was the only way,” Samantha confessed.