The Cat and the Cardboard Remote

A pretend button cannot move a real friend.

A short story to enjoy together



Read slowly. Pause to enjoy the pictures and the words.

The Cat and the Cardboard Remote

READ TOGETHER

Cat made a cardboard remote control with six large buttons. She pointed it at Rabbit. "Dance!" she said, pressing a purple circle. Rabbit stayed exactly where he was.

"Your button is broken," Cat said. Rabbit shook his head. "I haven't agreed to this game." Cat looked at the remote. She had made buttons, but she had not made a player.

"Would you like to play?" she asked. Rabbit considered. "Yes, if we take turns choosing the actions, and either of us can stop." Cat added a large Stop button.

They agreed on three gentle actions: wave, wiggle fingers and make a funny face. No running into things, no surprise touching. Rabbit pressed Wave. Cat waved like a very grand queen.

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READ TOGETHER

Cat pressed Funny Face. Rabbit crossed his eyes briefly, then laughed. When he wanted a break, he said stop. The game stopped even though nobody had pressed the cardboard button.

After a rest, Rabbit asked to be the controller again. Cat agreed. Their remote worked wonderfully once both players knew that the paper did not actually control anyone.

At tidy-up, Cat put it in the game box. Under the buttons, she wrote a new label with help: Works by Agreement. It was the most important instruction on the whole machine.

LET'S TALK

What made the game work for both friends?

Original story and illustration created with AI assistance. MimoMango, 2026.