



A Parisian mouse adventure

By bluejazz on September 22, 2017

Format: Paperback

What a beautiful children's picture book this is. The story is about two curious mice, Pierre and Gussie, who run into trouble on the streets of Paris. Their exciting adventures have been imagined by children's author Donna Gibbs, and wonderfully complemented by the witty illustrations of Lionel King. The story has a warmth and charm that is sure to leave a smile on your face - something for adults and children alike here.



When the Cat's Away

by Donna Gibbs (Goodreads Author)

Bill La's review

Oct 13, 2017

The delight begins on the book's cover: not just fish on the slate outside the merchant's shop in Paris, but frogs! Two mice are strolling along the footpath; one is whistling; their eyes are bulging. We are down there with them, at their level, in a world where the shop's doorway is huge and the fish are as big as they are: the human world. They seem afraid. And a slosh of cheese-coloured paint reaching for them compels the reader to get to the story.

Danger is ever-present. The mice on the cover are Gussie and Pierre, the children of bearded and buttoned parents who warn them at the dinner table about the risks of adventuring in a neighbourhood where they are new. We are soon following the mice out of their home in the wall to beneath a dining table, where humans are eating. The huge sandals of a young girl dangle overhead; she is dropping pieces of cheese on the floor. Before we know it, the girl is standing on her chair and the waiter has grabbed Pierre and flung him out the window.

We share Gussie's anxiety as she looks for Pierre, then that of the two mice as they try to find their way home again in an unknown place. This feeling is exacerbated in the reader due to Paris's being perhaps unfamiliar to them, too. The sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures that confront the fugitive mice create moments of great fun and lots of things to discuss while reading. Do the mice get home? And what is the big danger that they meet in the end? I enjoyed this book and highly recommend it. Five stars.



By Michael T on 25 October 2017

Format: Paperback |  Verified Purchase

My granddaughter and I thoroughly enjoyed reading together about Pierre and Gussie's mouse-eye view of the streets of Paris. Donna Gibbs's text leaves plenty of space for the reader's imagination and Lionel King's illustrations are a delight. The book also introduced my granddaughter to non-English place names - her first step to becoming a linguist?