

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse: An Aesop Fable

Author

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1996. Houghton Mifflin. Boston

Category

One story.

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Remark:

I had time between trains in Washington, DC, and went bumming around the station. To my surprise, I found a used book shop. I decided to plunge into their children's books and actually found four fable books! And I paid a whopping \$5.25 for them all. Here is one of my finds. A check on the author led me to our collection's one other volume by her, a TH in the same format but translated into Spanish by another writer. I hope to find more in the series. Like that "La liebre y la tortuga," this is a sixteen-page pamphlet. It comes ready with an inside front-cover with blanks to be filled in indicating that the book belongs to a specific state and, e.g., school district. The booklet was to be issued to a specific student in a specific year. Nothing there is filled in in this copy. Wold's art is delightful from the start, as the town mouse sneaks out a grate on a porch to visit her cousin in the fields outside a village. In a throwback, the "pantry" in the town house is neither a room nor a refrigerator but rather a cabinet filled with all sorts of food, and the mice have a grand time inside it. The cat first appears as a shadow. This country mouse is decisive: "I would rather eat my plain corn and barley in peace, than BE a feast myself." Well told and well illustrated!

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Books of Fables

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Read the Aesop's fable of The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse from this famous book. Now you must know that a Town Mouse once upon a time went on a visit to his cousin in the country. He was rough and ready, this cousin, but he loved his town friend and made him heartily welcome. Beans and bacon, cheese and bread, were all he had to offer, but he offered them freely. The Town Mouse rather turned up his long nose at this country fare, and said: "I cannot understand, Cousin, how you can put up with such poor food as this, but of course you cannot expect anything better in the country; come you with me and I will show you how to live. When you have been in town a week you wi A Town Mouse and a Country Mouse were acquaintances, and the Country Mouse one day invited his friend to come and see him at his home in the fields. The Town Mouse came, and they sat down to a dinner of barleycorns and roots, the latter of which had a distinctly earthy flavour. The fare was not much to the taste of the guest, and presently he broke out with "My poor dear friend, you live here no better than the ants. Now, you should just see how I fare! My larder is a regular horn of plenty. You must come and stay with me, and I promise you you shall live on the fat of the land." So Wenceslaus Hollar, 'Of the Court Mouse, and Country Mouse' (The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse), etching from 'The fables of Aesop paraphras'd in verse by John Ogilby', 1665. Printed by Thomas Roycroft for John Ogilby in London. National Art Library Pressmark: CLE.W.10. The National Art Library has a large collection of illustrated Aesop's Fables dating from the 15th century to the present day. The following extract is taken from The Fables of Aesop by Joseph Jacobs (London: Macmillan & Co., 1894). 'Now you must know that a Town Mouse once upon a time w The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse is one of Aesop's Fables. It is number 352 in the Perry Index and type 112 in Aarne-Thompson's folk tale index. Like several other elements in Aesop's fables, 'town mouse and country mouse' has become an English idiom. In the original tale, a proud town mouse visits his cousin in the country. The country mouse offers the city mouse a meal of simple country cuisine, at which the visitor scoffs and invites the country mouse back to the city for a taste of the "fine