The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse: An Aesop Fable

Author
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Date

Category
One story.

Call No: PZ7.K436Tow 1996 (Carlson Fable Collection, BIC bldg).

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!

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/10504/119067

Collections
Books of Fables

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse (Aesop). The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse (Horace). The Town Rat and the Country Rat (La Fontaine). The Story of the Town Mouse and the Field Mouse (Romania). One day a country mouse in his poor home Received an ancient friend, a mouse from Rome: The host, though close and careful, to a guest Could open still, so now he did his best. He spares not oats or vetches: in his chaps Raisins he brings and nibbled bacon-scraps, Hoping by varied dainties to entice His town-bred guest, so delicate and nice, Who condescended graciously to touch Thing after thing, but never would take much, While he, the owner of the mansion, sate On threshed-out straw, and spelt and darnels ate. A town mouse and a country mouse exchange visits and discover each is suited to his own home. Get A Copy. Amazon. This is the third picture-book adaptation of Aesop's fable of a town mouse and his country cousin that I have read, following upon the versions by Jan Brett and Carol Jones. It is possible that I have simply reached my saturation point with this story, although I usually enjoy reading different adaptations of the same tale. The town mouse, condescending to pick a bit here and a bit there, while the host sat nibbling a blade of barley-straw, at length exclaimed; "How is it, my good friend, that you can endure the dullness of this unpolished life? You are living like a toad in a hole. You can't really prefer these solitary rocks and woods to streets teeming with carriages and men. On my honor, you are wasting your time miserably here. We must make the most of life while it lasts. A mouse, you know, does not live forever. So come with me and I'll show you life and the town." Well told and well illustrated!