



The Mouse Mansion

Karina Schaapman

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Beatrix Potter meets *I Spy* in this detailed and charming storybook adventure

Best friends Julia and Sam are mice who live in the Mouse Mansion. When they're together they find all sorts of adventures—and all kinds of trouble!

Come with them as they discover a secret hiding place, greet the ragman, and learn to make pancakes. There is a shop that sells everything and a box full of treasure. And—oh no!—there might even be a rat! The Mouse Mansion is always full of surprises.

Author and artist Karina Schaapman spent years building and furnishing the Mouse Mansion in which this collection of stories takes place. The elaborate dollhouse is made of cardboard boxes and papier-mâché and contains more than one hundred rooms to explore.

The Mouse Mansion Details

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Author : Karina Schaapman

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From Reader Review The Mouse Mansion for online ebook

Amy says

Popularity/appeal rating: 4 (a bit text-heavy for a picture book, but the illustrations are so captivating!)

Quality rating: 5

In a one-sentence nutshell:

A heartwarming friendship story accompanies photographs of mice going about their daily lives in an incredibly detailed (and cozy-looking) dollhouse. I want to live in the Mouse Mansion.

Andrea says

Didn't read the story at all. I just love the miniatures.

Jessica says

I love children's book with illustrations like this - more like photographs of a scene. The author spent years creating *Mouse Mansion* out of cardboard boxes and paper mache. The mansion has over 100 rooms and each one is completely decorated and filled with little mouse-sized accessories. The picture of the whole mansion at the beginning of the book really shows how much work went into creating this! And the story line is so cute with two friends Julia and Sam exploring the *Mouse Mansion* and playing. My favorite scene is when Julia has chicken pox and the little mouse doll has embroidered dots all over - so cute and clever! Overall, a really unique picture book. This is one I might have to buy.

Janet says

I adore this picture book featuring little vignettes of life in the charming and tiny Mouse Mansion. Each story is paired with an oversize, matte photo of the mansion's interior rooms. The artwork is all hand-crafted by Dutch artist Schaapman, and the book would be worth it just for the hours you and your child will spend staring at the scenes. The little stories are connected but do not have to be read together, so you could parse this out over several bedtimes (you'll be looking at the pictures most of the time anyway). This is my favorite picture book in awhile.

Jan Polep says

Forget the story...this is the most fantastic 100 room mouse house (picture dollhouse) ever! So much to look at in this oversize, beautifully photographed picture book. Even cuter than the mouse furnishings are the tiny mice in each room...especially Julia, little mouse with chicken pox!

Brandy says

After visiting the Mouse Mansion storefront in Amsterdam (it's completely magical and should be at the top of your list of places to visit while in Amsterdam if you have children and/or love tiny things and/or have eyes), I tracked down an English-language copy of this book and was not disappointed. The stories are cute, my 4-year-old and I delighted in knowing more about Sam and Julia, and I can't get enough of the pictures and trying to figure out how all the tiny props are made.

Julie says

Adorable! I could look at the pictures for hours. I recommend it for anyone who had a doll house as a child or loves the world in miniature.

Dione Basseri says

I'm pretty surprised at the apparent popularity of this book, because I can't see kids enjoying this overly much. It's very text-heavy, so you'll have to spend quite some time on each page, meaning all but the most attentive of children will be trying to turn the pages early. I feel it would have worked better with simplified language, as an early reader book. As it is, new readers can't handle this on their own.

It really looks to me like Schaapman had a hobby of making this little house, and eventually needed to justify its existence by making a book. While the house would no doubt be engrossing to kids in person, again, the story is slow enough that it doesn't work so well as a book.

This could have been AMAZING as a seek-and-find book. Not even one where you need to find a lot of things. Just a couple each page, along with a more simple story.

As is, I'd recommend checking it out from your library, to see if your kids are drawn to it, but don't buy it outright unless they do.

Megan (ReadingRover) says

This is an amazingly wonderful children's book with a story adorned by hundreds of tiny mice hand crafted by the author. The details are unbelievable! They're set in all different situations with such whimsical delicacy. I can't praise the artistry enough!!!

Adrienne Pettinelli says

I really, really want to play with the mouse mansion.

Susan says

CHARMING!!!

Amy says

The story is simple, but sweet. Love the emphasis on family...the mouse names are repeated too often, but maybe that's just me. :P However, the pictures are SO charming and wonder-filled!!! My children were enchanted just as much as I was! Just lovely! :D

Emily says

A frustrating book. Karina Schaapman is a genius when it comes to creating mouse mansions. As a storyteller, she's right up there with the author of the Dick and Jane books. What I want is a book that treats her work purely as visual art and has photographs of each room in the house in turn, with no pretense of a story, and no pointless close-ups of the Julia and Sam mouse dolls.

Julie says

I could look at this book forever and still not see everything.

Kaethe says

Forget the stories; they're not especially interesting. But OMG, you have got to spend some time studying the elaborate mouse mansion. This is some awesome model-making. The little mice are cute, but the house is worth gazing at for untold hours. All the detail.

Library copy
