



A Very Special House

Ruth Krauss , Maurice Sendak (Illustrator)

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Continuing a two-year program to bring back twenty-two Maurice Sendak treasures long out of print, our second season of publication highlights one of the most successful author-illustrator pairings of all time. A pioneer of great children's literature, Ruth Krauss published more than thirty books for children during a career that spanned forty years. Krauss and Sendak collaborated on eight books, and we are delighted to reintroduce four of these gems in brand-new editions, together with a favorite Maurice Sendak picture book.

A Very Special House Details

Date : Published November 13th 2001 by HarperCollins (first published January 1st 1953)

ISBN : 9780060286385

Author : Ruth Krauss , Maurice Sendak (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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Download and Read Free Online A Very Special House Ruth Krauss , Maurice Sendak (Illustrator)

From Reader Review A Very Special House for online ebook

Tina says

I love the way this book reads like a song that starts out oh-so-ordinary and goes wild with imagination as the little boy gives us a tour of his bedroom and a tour of his gigantic world of "other" not-so-normal things for a bedroom.

Dolly says

Odd, very odd. I pitched it to our girls as a comparable tale to Harold and the Purple Crayon, but it really is much stranger than that classic tale. I see that this book garnered a Caldecott Honor nod, but I'm not entirely sure why. But then, I've never been much of a fan of Maurice Sendak's work.

The lyrical, nonsensical narrative is easy to read aloud, but it just didn't really appeal to us. The story was okay, but I don't remember reading it when I was a child, and I have a feeling this one will be quickly forgotten for our girls, too.

May 2018 update: Read this book again by myself and I found it to be slightly more charming than the first time I read it. Still, I don't know if it would appeal with young children - our girls weren't big fans of it.

Cheryl says

My youngest son often talked just like that, going about singing his random-sounding thoughts out loud. I just loved how expressive and open some children are, letting us see the world through their eyes.

And I love how Krauss (and Sendak) captured those innocent voices.

Reread of a Caldecott Honor book; for more discussion see the Children's Books group.

Amy McMullan says

Caldecott Honor Book - I honestly am not sure if I love this book or hate it entirely. This book is about a house and the animals and all that goes on in it from a little boy's imagination. Some made up words and repetitive words. The illustrations are fitting (by Maurice Sendak who created the illustrations for "Where the Wild Things Are").

Miriam says

And this is why we don't take LSD, children.

Molly says

Suggested to me after a discussion about "A Greyhound, a Groundhog" by Chris Appelhans. This story is rather free form. It is exciting to see Maurice Sendack's illustrations.

Sarah Middlestead says

1954 Caldecott Honor. A glimpse into the imagination of a child.

Kimberly says

Goodness gracious. There's a lot going on here, but I think I like it.

jontayshelacole says

Three was one boy and a cat

Samantha Zapata says

I really enjoyed this book and what it had to offer, but it would not be my first choice to read to my classroom. Illustrations were great, but the book was mostly an orange color throughout besides the color of the boy. The drawings that were just black were very intriguing and there is no doubt it wouldn't hold students' attention. It seemed to have a rythym to a song or a medley because at first I thought it was a rhyming book, but it was more than that. It seemed like a song he was singing that was talking his special house. Very random, but it was definitely interesting to read.

Ashlee Reed says

Age: Primary (K-2nd)

Genre: Contemporary Realistic

I did not like this book. At all. There was no point it was random and I will not recommend. I picked it up for the award on the front and was highly disappointed. Even had my sister read it and she was like, "What? This was dumb." Not our taste I suppose.

Casey Zarr says

This book leads you through a kid's imagination of his own, telling and showing you in his drawings he has made throughout the story. This book also has some funny words to entertain a younger audience but definitely a good read for a beginning or learning reader.

Maria Rowe says

• 1954 Caldecott Honor Book •

I really love these whimsical drawings by Maurice Sendak, but I don't like or get the text by Ruth Krauss. The nonsensical words just don't appeal to me. All the pages are yellow, which is my least favorite color, but I really like it because so many children's books have white pages. It's just sort of fun and different, and the addition of blue is really nice. Zero stars for the text, but five for the illustrations!

Materials used: unlisted

Typeface used: unlisted

Cassandra Gelvin says

Simple book, but good.

It's cute. A little boy describes a strange imaginary house in a sing-song fashion, where everything is special and unusual, and he has animals and a giant that play with him. It's pretty short and silly, with a little bit of repetition, but not too much that it gets really annoying. And it's made clear that the house is imaginary, as one of the last phrases is "it's right in the middle... of my head." The little boy gets to do things in this imaginary house that he might not be allowed to do in his real house, like pour crumbs on the cushions and jump on the beds.

Sendak's mischievous line drawings of the little boy and his companions are adorable. It's a simple ode to imagination and individuality.

Message: You can imagine any kind of life you want.

For more children's book reviews, see my website at <http://www.drtmk.com>.

Deborah says

Ruth Krauss's chanting, child's voice and Sendak's child-drawings together imagine "just a home for me – me – me!" Where a child can put feet on the table, draw on the walls, and bring home "a monkey and a skunk and a very old lion who is eating all the stuffing from the chairs, chairs, chairs!" Uptight adults will not approve of all that, of course, but most children will be delighted by this boisterous, "special" house.

constance says

A perfect children's book

Sarah Adamson says

A famous author and a very famous illustrator made an award winning book. I'm usually a big fan of older books and the award made me happy when my daughter picked it at the library. However...this book lost me a little.

It has good simple words for the early reader - but has quite a few made up ones that just confused her.

It has beautiful illustrations - but some didn't quite line up with the text. If every line of text has an associated picture then it works but not if only 9/10 do!

It is a fun story exploring a boy's imagination but is told in a bit of a weird way - and why does it have to be a dead mouse?

Ok, old fashioned and a bit peculiar. I can see how it appeals but it didn't fully get me.

Rachel says

I had never heard of this 1954 Caldecott Honor winning title until I picked it up for my Caldecott Challenge, although I knew Sendak had a hand in an earlier Caldecott book before he won one in 1964 for "Where the Wild Things Are." The text definitely reminds you of a small boy making up a nonsense story for his imaginary or stuffed animal friends. Maurice Sendak's whimsical drawings of the boy and all the animals make the story more special. Although I liked the illustrations, I wasn't a fan of the text. Recommended for ages 1-6, 2 stars.

McKinley says

Really is very special

Laura5 says

My favorite line:

"Oh it's right in the middle--
oh it's ret in the meedle--
oh it's root in the moodle of my head, head, head"
