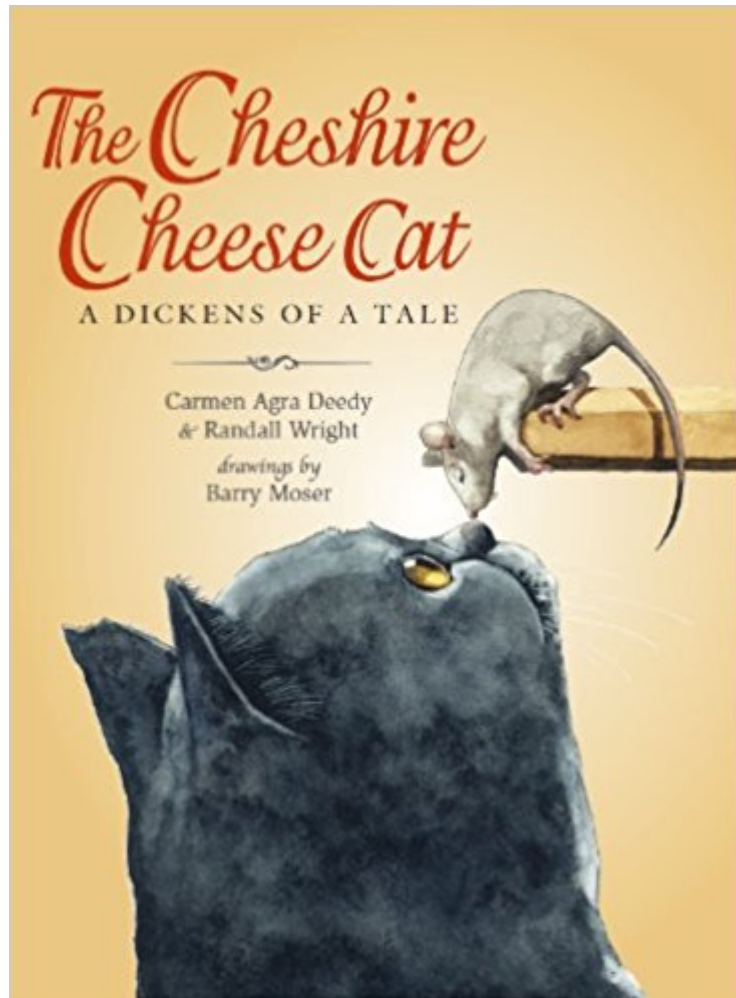




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The Cheshire Cheese Cat



Synopsis

Skilley, an alley cat with an embarrassing secret, longs to escape his street-cat life. Tired of dodging fishwives' brooms and carriage wheels, he hopes to trade London's damp alleyways for the warmth of ye olde Cheshire Cheese Inn. He strikes a bargain with Pip, an erudite mouse: Skilley will protect the mice who live at the inn, and in turn, the mice will provide Skilley with the thing he desires most. But when Skilley and Pip are drawn into a crisis of monumental proportions involving a tyrannical cook, an unethical barmaid, and a malevolent tomcat, their new friendship is pushed to its limits. The escalating crisis threatens the peace not only of the Cheshire Cheese Inn but also the British Monarchy! Unbeknownst to Skilley and Pip, however, they have a secret ally: a famous author who scribbles away many an afternoon in ye olde Cheshire Cheese Inn...

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Customer Reviews

Wright drawings by Barry Moser Stories will talking animals are hit or miss for me (usually miss) I can't articulate why only a few work for me or what it is I like but I know it when I see it. Like Underneath by Appelt or Whittington by Armstrong this hits the mark. The Cheshire Cheese Cat is co-author Deedy's first early reader and an excellent one at that. The story is a fun hat tip to Charles Dickens featuring a cat named Skilley with a secret. Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese is an inn known for having the best cheese in London. They also have a mouse problem. Skilley the only street cat that doesn't have a taste for mice bought into to Ye Olde to kept the population down. This is perfect for

Pip, the mouse in charge. Pip and Skilley make an arrangement so everyone is happy. Everything is going well until Pinch a very vicious cat is hired. Pip and Skilley have to be extra careful that their secret isn't discovered. When I started reading this I couldn't put it down. It's one of those books that makes me wish I had a fireplace to read by. Moser's illustrations which are sprinkled throughout are lovely. Along with the short chapters make this a great choice for a read aloud. There's another layer to this story involving a Raven that makes it that much more intriguing. The Cheshire Cheese Cat has everything, adventure, unlikely friendship, danger. and beautiful language. "Scat, cat!" A broom came down hard out of London's cold and fog. Startled, Skilley leapt sideways and the broom whiffled empty air. The cat however, refused to scat. He eyed the dead fish then the broom, calculating the distance between the two. "Off now, you thieving moggy," the fishmonger shrilled.

Animal stories. Done well and you get something like Charlotte's Web or The Incredible Journey. Done poorly and you cannot name for me a more annoying genre. Some days it seems to me that every great children's author eventually tries their hand at the style to varying degrees of success. Burned one time too many I've taken to just avoiding books with animals in them altogether unless there's something that seems to be extraordinary about them. So when The Cheshire Cheese Cat came into my possession, I was inclined to put it aside. Then a friend and an editor both assured me it was lovely. And then there was the fact that Carman Agra Deedy, author of such great picture books as 14 Cows for America had co-authored it. Finally, it's not every day that the great Barry Moser illustrates a new work of middle grade fiction. Add in the fact that there's a Charles Dickens connection and I cracked. I read it. And reader, it was worth the reading. Not that it convinced me to rethink my animals-in-books opinions, but at least I may be a hair more open minded in the future . . . maybe. The Cheshire Cheese Inn is a place of secrets. It seems that anyone who works or lives there has one. For Skilley the alleycat, his is a shame that has caused him to strike up a deal with the local mouse population that haunt the inn's famous cheese production room.

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Grilled Cheese Kitchen: Bread + Cheese + Everything in Between The Cheese Board: Collective Works: Bread, Pastry, Cheese, Pizza Crossing Cheshire Bridge: Photographs by Teri Darnell Crossing Cheshire Bridge Cat vs. Cat: Keeping Peace When You Have More Than One Cat How to draw cat's face: Colored Pencil Guides for Kids and Adults, Step-By-Step Drawing Tutorial How to Draw Cute Cat in Realistic Style, Learn to Draw ... and Animals, How to Draw Cat, Close-up Eyes Cat Training: The Ultimate Cat Training Guide - Learn How To Train Your Cat And Solve Behavior Problems Doodling for Cat People: 50 inspiring doodle prompts and creative exercises for cat lovers Cats: Cat Care- Kitten Care- How To Take Care Of And Train Your Cat Or Kitten The Little Grumpy Cat that Wouldn't (Grumpy Cat) (Little Golden Book) Pete the Cat: Scuba-Cat (My First I Can Read) How to Speak Cat: A Guide to Decoding Cat Language Think Like a Cat: How to Raise a Well-Adjusted Cat--Not a Sour Puss CatWise: America's Favorite Cat Expert Answers Your Cat Behavior Questions

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