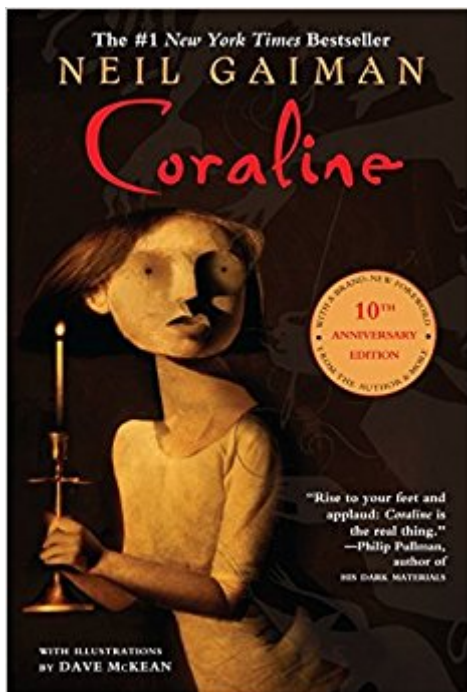


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Coraline



Synopsis

This edition of New York Times bestselling and Newbery Medal-winning author Neil Gaiman's modern classic, *Coraline*—also an Academy Award-nominated film—is enriched with a foreword from the author, a reader's guide, and more. When Coraline steps through a door to find another house strangely similar to her own (only better), things seem marvelous. But there's another mother there, and another father, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and courage if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Coraline lives with her preoccupied parents in part of a huge old house--a house so huge that other people live in it, too... round, old former actresses Miss Spink and Miss Forcible and their aging Highland terriers ("We trod the boards, luvvy") and the mustachioed old man under the roof ("The reason you cannot see the mouse circus,' said the man upstairs, 'is that the mice are not yet ready and rehearsed.") Coraline contents herself for weeks with exploring the vast garden and grounds. But with a little rain she becomes bored--so bored that she begins to count everything blue (153), the windows (21), and the doors (14). And it is the 14th door that--sometimes blocked with a wall of

bricks--opens up for Coraline into an entirely alternate universe. Now, if you're thinking fondly of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* or *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, you're on the wrong track. Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* is far darker, far stranger, playing on our deepest fears. And, like Roald Dahl's work, it is delicious. What's on the other side of the door? A distorted-mirror world, containing presumably everything Coraline has ever dreamed of... people who pronounce her name correctly (not "Caroline"), delicious meals (not like her father's overblown "recipes"), an unusually pink and green bedroom (not like her dull one), and plenty of horrible (very un-boring) marvels, like a man made out of live rats. The creepiest part, however, is her mirrored parents, her "other mother" and her "other father"--people who look just like her own parents, but with big, shiny, black button eyes, paper-white skin... and a keen desire to keep her on their side of the door. To make creepy creepier, *Coraline* has been illustrated masterfully in scritch, terrifying ink drawings by British mixed-media artist and *Sandman* cover illustrator Dave McKean. This delightful, funny, haunting, scary as heck, fairy-tale novel is about as fine as they come. Highly recommended. (Ages 11 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

British novelist Gaiman (*American Gods*; *Stardust*) and his long-time accomplice McKean (collaborators on a number of Gaiman's *Sandman* graphic novels as well as *The Day I Swapped My Dad for 2 Goldfish*) spin an electrifyingly creepy tale likely to haunt young readers for many moons. After Coraline and her parents move into an old house, Coraline asks her mother about a mysterious locked door. Her mother unlocks it to reveal that it leads nowhere: "When they turned the house into flats, they simply bricked it up," her mother explains. But something about the door attracts the girl, and when she later unlocks it herself, the bricks have disappeared. Through the door, she travels a dark corridor (which smells "like something very old and very slow") into a world that eerily mimics her own, but with sinister differences. "I'm your other mother," announces a woman who looks like Coraline's mother, except "her eyes were big black buttons." Coraline eventually makes it back to her real home only to find that her parents are missing--they're trapped in the shadowy other world, of course, and it's up to their scrappy daughter to save them. Gaiman twines his taut tale with a menacing tone and crisp prose fraught with memorable imagery ("Her other mother's hand scuttled off Coraline's shoulder like a frightened spider"), yet keeps the narrative just this side of terrifying. The imagery adds layers of psychological complexity (the button eyes of the characters in the other world vs. the heroine's increasing ability to distinguish between what is real and what is not; elements of Coraline's dreams that inform her waking decisions). McKean's scratchy, angular drawings, reminiscent of Victorian etchings, add an ominous edge that

helps ensure this book will be a real bedtime-buster. Ages 8-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

A great, fun, spooky, tale of a girl who finds herself in a dark spot wishing she could have her boring life and boring parents back. I didn't expect to like the book as much as I did. I thought it would be another entertaining book by Gaiman, but what I read was so much more. I couldn't put it down and yet I had to make myself put it down when I found myself scared, while reading late at night (I'd like to add I'm a 34 year old mother and wife). Coraline is who I thought myself to have been when I was her age, but she's braver and much wiser.

Sometimes, it's best NOT to tell your child to go off and count windows and doors. Really, best to play with them yourself and prevent them from finding THAT DOOR, the one that opens with that old, black, rusty key, the door that leads to a brick wall. Or does it? Gaiman clearly has something of an obsession with doors/passageways/mirrors/openings to other realities. (NEVERWHERE, for instance, or MIRRORMASK, for example.) In this not-very-long story, an adorably intrepid child who doesn't like fancy "gourmet" fare and has the heart of an explorer finds that some doors lead places they ought not, and, sometimes, you have to be very brave indeed. . . if you want to get your life back. Coraline's adventure in the Other-House with the chilling Other Mom and the not-quite-right Other Dad and a very savvy cat without a name is spooky and fascinating and absolutely great fun. There are bits that will bring up reminiscences of other stories, older stories. Gaiman knows what he's about when he tells a scary, fantastical tale about saving lives (of more than one sort), saving deaths (and yes, that can be done), and battling a Big Bad with Button Eyes who "loves you very much." And when you can really see your life, your world, and your parents as they truly are, you may find they're quite lovely, after all. And when you find out what you yourself are capable of...everything changes. There's a nifty moral in this niftier story. Now, remember to be nice to cats and eccentric old biddies and to keep your magical stone close by.

This book is fantastic, one of Neil Gaiman's best. Though it is a children's book adults will greatly enjoy it, for those with children I suggest that you read it to your child/children so you may enjoy it together. For those of you without kids you should read it anyway. One last note the book is (as is usually to case) different than the film in more than a few ways so if you liked the film read the book so find out what is different.

Awesome book. You should buy it

Little Coraline is terribly bored, but that won't stop her from stumbling into adventure--even in the haunts of her very own flat. Neil Gaiman has constructed a wonderful modern-day fairy tale. Who cannot relate to being bored on a rainy day as a child, and wandering around looking for something to do? As this author likes to do, he paints an intriguing tale using both the strange and the familiar. Perhaps inspired by his own childhood reading the Narnia Chronicles and Alice in Wonderland, Coraline enters a strange world through a doorway to nowhere inside her home. The protagonist lives in an old mansion that was divided up into four flats. As part of the division, a doorway was bricked up but otherwise left intact. Two of the other flats are inhabited by curious adults who have interesting backgrounds and peculiar interests. But no other children. The fourth flat is vacant and this leaves Coraline wondering what it's like over in the vacant flat. One day, she opens the odd door (that is usually full of bricks) and discovers a passageway to the "Other" world. Here she discovers her "Other" family who purport to be having a much more interesting and exciting life on this side of the flat. Coraline also meets her "other" neighbors who are even more intriguing and crazier versions of themselves than in the real world. However, there is also a hint that something is a little off, despite the seemingly gracious attitude of the inhabitants of the Other world. For one, they have buttons for eyes! Coraline is a clever girl and keeps her guard up refusing an invitation to stay in this Other world, but she's ultimately drawn back when her loved ones are kidnapped and imprisoned there. This story has all the "wonder" of Wonderland. Nothing is as it seems and all is fascinating in its absurdity. Gaiman invents his own monsters and puts his own spin on this Other world adventure story that is reminiscent of stepping through the looking glass or through the furs in the oversized wardrobe. The tone of the story is what delivers its charm. It's dark and somber. Yet, despite the darkness, the author manages to keep it light enough for its intended younger audience. Like other masters of the genre, he manages to ride that line where the book is enjoyable for both adults as well as children. Gaiman keeps an element of danger and scary things in the Other world without becoming overly graphic. It's just the right touch. Quite a feat. Not too mention, refreshing. The setting is very small. It takes place almost entirely in Coraline's home (and the "Other" version of it). This is very relatable. Gaiman really manages to capture the child's perspective of Coraline roaming around her home and the grounds outside. Everything feels big and adventurous. It makes me think about being a youngster myself and exploring different rooms in my grandparents' homes during family parties. How big a house can seem when you're so young...there always seemed to be a mysterious room or door that I might not have noticed before. Even little touches like Coraline's

dislike of her father's cooking feels authentic and in character. Coraline has a real voice in her thoughts, actions and words. Her parents too. They're busy, as parents often are, but they still manage to make time for her and convey a sense of love and doting. Gaiman has a way of using his words sparingly but he still conveys a sense of place. He seems to find just the right touchstones to get his point across. This makes the story easier for younger readers, but also meaningful and solid for older readers. When you read authors like this, you know within the first page the lighthearted depth that is being conveyed. You're immediately swept up by the words and transported into a new world. It's a great feeling. By touching on some classic tropes i.e. portals to strange worlds hidden from our own world, sassy talking cats, and smooth talking sirens (who are just a little too nice) - we are easily coaxed off the pages and transported beyond. However, Gaiman has his own perspective on this, and his unique twists and particular details take the old familiar and make it new again. This feels like a short novella. A fast read. It quickly strikes a mood and sets the stage for a dark, adventurous fairy tale. Definitely recommended. Podcast: If you enjoy my review (or this topic) this book and the movie based on it were further discussed/debated in a lively discussion on my podcast: "No Deodorant In Outer Space". The podcast is available on iTunes or our website.

I purchased this book in preparation for cosplaying as Coraline (yup, I'm a dork). It's creepy, beautiful, and haunting - all things I rather enjoy. Since I've recently been getting into graphic novels, this one was one of the first graphic novel purchases of my collection. I'm assuming if you're getting this book, you've also watched the Tim Burton adaptation (or maybe read the book?). While it is pretty true to this graphic novel, there are a few variances. I would say that the graphic novel has creeper moments, but Burton captures it all so well. It's not a typical moral story, but it does have a moral at the end. Coraline seems like a spoiled brat in the movies, whereas the graphic novel she seems more lonely than anything (though still a bit bratty). The artwork is lovely, the story moves along at a decent pace, and I think this is a wonderful book for anyone who is into this dark, riveting type of story. Coraline starts the book off bratty and unappreciative of what she has around her, and ends the story as a bold, independent heroine who risks everything to save her parents. Definitely not the type of book for everybody, but definitely a must for Burton, Gaiman, and Gorey fans.

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