



# Coraline

By Neil Gaiman

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When Coraline explores her new home, she steps through a door and into another house just like her own . . . except that it's different. It's a marvelous adventure until Coraline discovers that there's also another mother and another father in the house. They want Coraline to stay with them and be *their* little girl. They want to keep her forever!

Coraline must use all of her wits and every ounce of courage in order to save herself and return home.

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## Coraline By Neil Gaiman Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

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 scritchey, 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*

### From Publishers Weekly

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.  
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### From School Library Journal

Grade 6-8--When Coraline and her parents move into a new house, she notices a mysterious, closed-off door.

It originally went to another part of the house, which her family does not own. Some rather eccentric neighbors call her Caroline and seem not to understand her very well, yet they have information for her that will later prove vital. Bored, she investigates the door, which takes her into an alternate reality. There she meets her "other" mother and father. They are very nice to her, which pleases Coraline but also makes her a little suspicious. Her neighbors are in this other world, and they are the same, yet somehow different. When Coraline gets nervous and returns home, her parents are gone. With the help of a talking cat, she figures out that they are being held prisoner by her other parents, as are the souls of some long-lost children. Coraline's plan to rescue them involves, among other things, making a risky bargain with her other mother whose true nature is beginning to show. The rest of the story is a suspense-filled roller coaster, and the horror is all the more frightening for being slightly understated. A droll humor is present in some of the scenes, and the writing is simple yet laden with foreboding. The story is odd, strange, even slightly bizarre, but kids will hang on every word. Coraline is a character with whom they will surely identify, and they will love being frightened out of their shoes. This is just right for all those requests for a scary book.

*Bruce Anne Shook, Mendenhall Middle School, Greensboro, NC*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Percy Cole:**

The book Coraline gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book Coraline to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open and read a book Coraline. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this guide?

#### **Amy Nichols:**

This Coraline are generally reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The key reason why of this Coraline can be one of several great books you must have is giving you more than just simple studying food but feed anyone with information that probably will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Coraline forcing you to have an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

#### **Jennifer Johnson:**

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**Elizabeth Bello:**

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