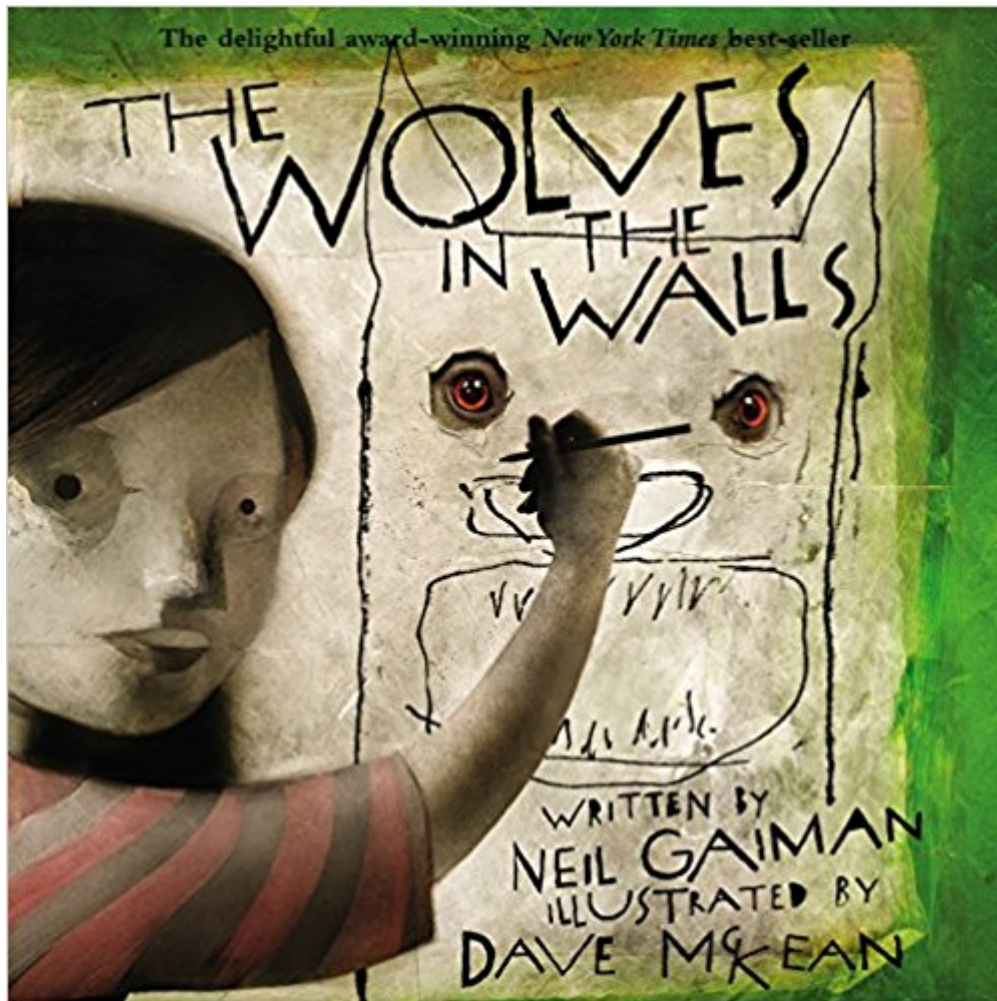




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The Wolves In The Walls



Synopsis

Lucy hears sneaking, creeping, crumpling noises coming from inside the walls. She is sure there are wolves living in the walls of her house.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 500 (What's this?)

Paperback: 56 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (July 26, 2005)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 144 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #64,476 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #164 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips #184 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Humorous #273 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

Customer Reviews

Truth be told, Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean's picture book *The Wolves in the Walls* is terrifying. Sure, the story is fairytale-like and presented in a jaunty, casually nonsensical way, but it is absolutely the stuff of nightmares. Lucy hears wolves hustling, bustling, crinkling, and crackling in the walls of the old house where her family lives, but no one believes her. Her mother says it's mice, her brother says bats, and her father says what everyone seems to say, "If the wolves come out of the walls, it's all over." Lucy remains convinced, as is her beloved pig-puppet, and her worst fears are confirmed when the wolves actually do come out of the walls. Up to this point, McKean's illustrations are spectacular, sinister collages awash in golden sepia tones evocative of the creepy beauty in *The City of Lost Children*. The wolves explode into the story in scratchy pen-and-ink, all jaws and eyes. The family flees to the cold, moonlit garden, where they ponder their future. (Her brother suggests, for example, that they escape to outer space where there's "nothing but fozzles and squossucks for billions of miles.") Lucy wants to live in her own house...and she wants the

pig-puppet she left behind. Eventually she talks her family into moving back into the once-wolfish walls, where they peek out at the wolves who are watching their television and spilling popcorn on slices of toast and jam, dashing up the stairs, and wearing their clothes. When the family can't stand it anymore, they burst forth from the walls, scaring the wolves, who shout, "And when the people come out of the walls, it's all over!" The wolves flee and everything goes back to normal...until the tidy ending when Lucy hears "a noise that sounded exactly like an elephant trying not to sneeze." Adult fans of this talented pair will revel in the quirky story and its darkly gorgeous, deliciously shadowy trappings, but the young or faint of heart, beware! (Ages 9 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 2-4-Lucy hears sounds in her house and is certain that the "sneaking, creeping, crumpling" noises coming from inside the walls are wolves. Her parents and her brother know "if the wolves come out-, it's all over," and no one believes that the creatures are there-until they come out. Then the family flees, taking refuge outside. It is Lucy who bravely returns to rescue her pig puppet and who talks the others into forcing the animals to leave. Gaiman and McKean deftly pair text and illustrations to convey a strange, vivid story evolving from a child's worst, credible fear upon hearing a house creak and groan. Glowing eyes and expressive faces convey the imminent danger. This rather lengthy picture book displays the striking characteristics of a graphic novel: numerous four-panel pages opening into spreads that include painted people; scratchy ink-lined wolves; and photographed, computer-manipulated images. Children will delight in the "scary, creepy tone" and in the brave behavior displayed by the intrepid young heroine. Marian Creamer, Children's Literature Alive, Portland, OR Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Gaiman perfectly writes about what happens when we avoid difficult topics, aka the "wolves in the walls" and how facing those topics head-on are the only way to regain control of life. Main character, Lucy, is the only family member who makes the conscious decision to see that something isn't right and makes a point to bring what's wrong into the light. Female heroine. Absolutely beautiful artwork. Have used this book to read to children who have experienced trauma and domestic abuse. No violence, but may be scary to younger readers.

A compelling story - had me fascinated until the end. Love the way the story and the pictures work so well together. Beautifully (and appropriately) illustrated in a truly unique way that sort a

combination of painting and collage. Might be a bit scary for kids who are of the age where they still believe in Santa (whatever that age may be for the individual kid). But for those a little beyond that and with the new ability to discern reality from fiction (maybe 8 or 9?) - this book should be a fun and scary read. Its perfect for a parent to read out loud as well. One of the best picture books I have ever come across!

This book leaves me in an uncomfortable position of being unable to possibly gush enough about it while simultaneously at a loss for words worthy to describe it. Put simply: I now know what the very best picture book ever written is. So I'll start with the pictures: McKean's artwork is beautiful; both strangely abstract and touchingly real. I won't even begin to question how he did it, but a part of me can't help wondering how it's even *possible*. And Gaiman's story? It's the shortest of his work I've ever read, yet it's absolutely complete, with nothing left hanging loose (except of course the parts that SHOULD be loose). I don't want to reveal more than that; it has a wonderful "surprise-that-should-have-been-obvious" quality. Put simply: if you even THINK you might like to read this book, whether for yourself or someone else, just slip it in your next order. You'll be glad you did.

I don't think I really fell in love with this book until I started reading it aloud to my daughter. I remember reading it to myself first and thinking it was clever and witty and had beautiful illustrations, but when I read it for her for the first time I found myself taking on the different voices of the characters and making sound effects and really letting the story take us both elsewhere for a while. It's a simple story: young Lucy hears noises in the walls of her house, and she is convinced that there are wolves living there. None of her family believes her and dismiss her concerns, but she maintains her belief. When the wolves (of course they really are there!) come out of the walls, they do what any wolves would do -- chase the family away and take over the house, wearing the family's clothes and playing video games and eating toast and jam in front of the television with the volume as loud as it would go. The family, with nowhere else to go but led by clever Lucy, has to take their turn inside the walls of their house. It is as smart, funny, and canny of a book as we might expect from Gaiman (who is often at his best when writing in the short form like this) and is accompanied perfectly by McKean's unique style of illustration, well suited to the story. But as good as it is, believe me when I say it gets ten times better when you read it aloud for someone. Watching a child's eyes as they get engrossed in the story, as they get excited in the parts where the wolves finally appear, as they sparkle with laughter when they see what the wolves are doing, is its own

brand of magic. Once they learn the story (which does not take long, Gaiman makes it easy for them), you'll find them reading parts of it with you, like the repeated statement about what happens when the wolves come out of the walls: "It's All Over!" My youngest daughter now requests that I read 'The Wolves in the Walls' to her nightly, and if that doesn't tell you this is a great book for kids, nothing else will. And, because I love it too and I love reading it to her, I do. This is a very, very special book to us.

Anything by Neil Gaiman is worth your time and attention! He brings characters to life in a way that no one else does. The characters are relatable with imaginative stories. My goal is to collect all of his books, so this purchase was part of that goal.

After several LONG car trips with our 4-year old who wanted to listen to the audio version of this over and over and over and OVER we got him this book version. He loves it just as much and the illustrations are amazing. The story is told from the point of view of a little girl named Lucy, whose parents and older brother don't believe her when she hears wolves in the walls... and is proved to be right! Lucy leads her family through the adventure and is a lovely heroine that children will identify with. Neil Gaiman is one of our family's favorites, whether writing for children or adults. Another point: we've found that our son is very happy if we put on the audio version and he can turn the pages of the book and have it "read" for him by the author himself.

I could infinitely gush about the brilliance of Neil Gaiman, but I'd only be telling you something you already know. That being said, I loved this "kids" book. But it's not. Not really. The appeal of Gaiman is his ability to tap in to the child inside of you and allow you go back to your childhood for a brief moment. It's at that moment you can suspend disbelief and let yourself nod that "Yes, there easily could be wolves in the wall." This book was charming, witty and danced along delicious words at a delightful pace. I'll be sharing it with my four-year old nephew and 53-year-old mother.

great book for 4TH and 5th graders.....great to read out loud !

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