



Diane Wolkstein

Little Mouse's Painting



Written by Diane Wolkstein • Pictures by Maryjane Begin

Open the Book...



Little Mouse lived in her own pretty house under the earth. She had a sweet-smelling bed made of pinewood and honeysuckle vines, a small braided rug, and a painting by her grandmother that hung on the wall over her cupboard. Every day, Little Mouse ate her breakfast of berries and nuts, made her bed, and went up the steps to visit her friends.



Bear, Squirrel, and Porcupine were Little Mouse's friends. Some days she picked berries and nuts with Bear. "HO-HO!" Bear would shout whenever he found a particularly fine patch of berries. "Ahhh... AHHH..." he would sigh as he happily ate them.



Some days Little Mouse was invited to Squirrel's house, where they had tea and crackers and flowers. Squirrel loved flowers. Sometimes he arranged them carefully in acorn cups, and sometimes he ate them.



Other days Little Mouse went for long walks with Porcupine. Porcupine never walked in a straight line but wandered from one side of the path to the other. She'd often stop to look at something closely and say, "Oh, look at that stone – just look at that stone." Or, "Look at that cloud, just look at that cloud." Then Little Mouse would also pause and examine the stone or quietly stare at the cloud.

But one evening, even though she liked to see her friends, Little Mouse decided she would do something by herself. She decided she would make a painting.



The next morning Little Mouse set up her grandmother's easel near a blueberry bush and began to paint. The sun shone on her.

She made long thin strokes.

She made short thick strokes.

She painted all morning, singing as she worked, and only stopped from time to time for a snack of berries. By afternoon her painting was finished.

As she was looking at it, she heard **thump...thump...thump...**

We hope that this brief sampling of Little Mouse’s story will encourage you to seek out the book and see how it all turns out. A very popular book with grade-school children, parents and teachers, *Little Mouse’s Painting* sold over 100,000 copies when it was first published in 1992. It has also been translated in French, Italian, Dutch, and Korean.

The lovely illustrations are by Maryjane Begin, an award-winning illustrator whose credits also include *The Porcupine Mouse*, *A Mouse Told His Mother*, and *Before I Go to Sleep*. She is also a teacher at the Rhode Island School of Design, where she began her illustration career.

“The appealing story delivers its message without insistence; the imaginative paintings, burgeoning with delightful detail, are exquisite.”

Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Wolkstein offers a unique story with depth and nuance that is matched by Begin’s attention-grabbing art... [This] tale will reside in the heart.”

Booklist (starred review)

“An appealing, insightful look at friendship and creativity.”

School Library Journal

Order Little Mouse’s Painting online and open another book at:

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