



House of Tribes

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In every mouse's long life, there comes a time when ancestral voices tell him to move on. Pedlar, a yellow-necked mouse, has reached that point. Told to leave the Hedgerow and go on a long journey, the adventurous mouse says his farewells and sets out for a far-distant country known as The House. Reaching his destination, Pedlar enters a strange new world inhabited by many warring tribes: the Stinkhorns of the cellar, the great Savage Tribe in the kitchen, the library Bookeaters, the Invisibles, the Deathshead and the rebellious 13-K Gang.

House of Tribes Details

Date : Published (first published 1995)
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Author : Garry Kilworth
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Franziska says

I had already read 3 other books by Kilworth before "House of Tribes". Kilworth is a great writer and is able to let the animals in his story become unique characters.

House of Tribes is a lovely story, I liked it very much, though I needed some time to warm up to it. Also I think it is a bit slow in some parts and I would have liked to know a bit more of Pedlar's journey in the end.

A very nice story, though not as deep and thoughtful as Hunter's Moon or Frost Dancers.

Becky says

As a child I loved animal stories; Dick King-Smith, The Animals of Farthing Wood series by Colin Dann, The Deptford Mice series by Robin Jarvis and the Redwall series by Brian Jacques were among my favourites. I was after a light read, so I decided to try this book. It was nice to delve into this genre again as an adult! The book is about a mouse called Pedlar who leaves his home in The Hedgerow to seek his fortune in a strange and far-off land known as The House. Once there, he encounters warring tribes of mice, who end up calling a truce and joining forces to purge The House of the nudniks (humans), whom the mice consider pests. This book was very imaginative and humorous. A charming Sunday afternoon read.

allbooksnoheart says

I always did like stories about animals and when I picked up this book in the old shop I said to my friend, upon reading the blurb, that I felt the book would be either extremely good or extremely tedious by its premise. I am delighted to report that I found the book to be extremely good. The pace is very, incredibly, fast- one might almost say as fast as mice move, as those at its main characters, with memorable and many interesting characters which results in an un-put-downable pleasurable read.

Ice Bear says

My wife read this book first and passed it over to me. Lovely story about an abandoned House, or not as it turns out. A good perspective view from ground level to the world we see differently.

Stina says

I really love this book. The characters are so charming and it is very fun to be in the mind of a mouse and see how stupid we humans must look!

Megan says

This is an unusual, charming little tale by Kilworth. The humour is rich and the prose clear and concise, the names creative, and the story as believable as can be expected of a fictitious piece about mice. Kilworth does an excellent job of controlling the suspense, and his portrayal of humans and other threats from a rodent's perspective is also very well done.

I thoroughly enjoyed "House of Tribes". My one complaint is that it felt a little long; the plot seemed to drag in patches, with certain passages coming across as unnecessarily long. Otherwise, though, "House of Tribes" is a very good book indeed.

Azerane says

Enter a world familiar yet told from the perspective of a yellow-necked mouse, Pedlar. An engaging insight into the world of mice, imaginative and amusing. Along the lines of an in-depth retelling of Aesop's fable, The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse.

Francesca says

There's so much I love about this book that it's hard to sum it up in a few words. It is so unique and entertaininig that I wish it was more well-known; it certainly deserves it. The plot is brilliant and even though its not perfect, it is a very good read and will give you a whole new respect for mice. Pedlar's voice isn't entirely convincing but there are lots of mouse-idioms to remind you who is speaking which is nice.

I'm not a big reader of these books with animal antagonists but whenever I read one I wish I did it more often and House of Tribes is no exception. I would definitely recommend this to anyone who likes these kinds of books because it is equally funny and gripping, with characters that will stay with you long after you put it down.

Patsy Good sir says

House of Tribes is one of the most enchanting books I have ever read. I came across a copy of it while holidaying abroad and pleaded with the apartment owner to let me bring it home. Our hero Pedlar is a character that I will always remember. I loved the whole aspect of the different mouse tribes and all their dastardly deeds. The library mice being so full of knowledge because they ate so many words made me smile for weeks. The book is full of humour and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to escape this mad, mad world. Hooray for Pedlar !! Loved the detailed map showing the layout of the house. What an amazing piece of work.

Calista says

It took me several months to read this, but that in no way reflects how clever and entertaining House of Tribes is. Kilworth brings his animal characters to life in this fantasy adventure about mice and their devious plot to upset a house of humans. It is the story of Pedlar, a yellow-necked mouse who embarks on a 'journey of discovery'. House of Tribes has it all - action and adventure, romance, humour... Perhaps what is most clever is that Kilworth has given us a tale about the human race all through the eyes of a tiny mouse. Kids young and old should enjoy this.

Chris says

This is a Kilworth animal tale, one of what I refer to as his animal Quartet. House of Tribes is about mice, once mouse in particular, Pedlar. Pedlar was a Hedgerow mouse who felt called to enter the House, where he meets the house mice who are divided into various tribes. Eventually the tribes until to fulfill a quest or two.

This book is charming. I love the fact that the various species of animals (mice, cats, and dog) speak different, if recognizable languages. The mice are different enough, and there is a sense of community.

There are some wonderful uses of humor in this novel as well.

Bonniemahonie says

Ich dachte es wäre ganz süß... zum einschlafen hat's gereicht. :D
