



A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home

By Henry Cole

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A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home By Henry Cole

A beautifully illustrated novel about a mouse, her friendship with Audubon's apprentice, and her search for home.

Beneath the crackled and faded painting of a horse, underneath the worn and dusty floorboards of the dining room, lives Celeste, a mouse who spends her days weaving baskets, until one day she is thrust into the world above. Here Celeste encounters danger—and love—unlike any she's ever imagined. She dodges a hungry cat and witnesses the brutality of hunting for the first time. She makes friends with a singing thrush named Cornelius, a talkative osprey named Lafayette, and Joseph, Audubon's young apprentice. All the while, Celeste is looking for a new home. Is her home in the toe of a worn boot? Nestled in Joseph's pocket? Or in the dollhouse in the attic, complete with mouse-size furniture perfect for Celeste? In the end, Celeste discovers that home is really the place deep inside her heart, where friendships live.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, March 2010: Celeste is not your average mouse. She lives alone, quietly weaving baskets with creative flair under the floor boards of the Oakley Plantation. However, Celeste's world turns upside down with the arrival of the great naturalist John James Audubon and his assistant Joseph, who have come to study and paint the birds of the Louisiana bayou. Their arrival coincides with Celeste's sudden displacement from her home below to a guest room upstairs. There she watches young Joseph struggle to create the backgrounds for Audubon's bird paintings. As the two homesick souls strike up a friendship, the mouse secretly puts her artistic skills to good use; she simultaneously helps Joseph improve his compositions while aiding the wounded birds that Audubon captures for his studies. Nearly every page of author-illustrator Henry Cole's fine novel combines text and remarkable drawn images to tell the story of a mouse in need of a home of her own from the tiny creature's unique vantage point. Henry Cole's *A Nest for Celeste* is a perfect choice for middle readers who enjoy animal adventure tales with a twist. --Lauren Nemroff

From School Library Journal

Grade 3–5—At Oakley Plantation near New Orleans, temporary home to naturalist John James Audubon and his assistant, Joseph Mason, lives a mouse named Celeste. Industrious and sweet, she forages for food in the dining room and weaves baskets of grass. Unfortunately, she is harassed by resident rats, and, attempting to assuage their hunger, she is trapped by a cat and unable to return to her nook under the floorboards. A chase brings her to Mason's room and there develops a friendship between the homesick apprentice and the little mouse. It unfolds that Audubon is no PETA advocate—he hires hunters to shoot birds so that he can pose them for his drawings. Some of the story is devoted to Celeste's persuading captured birds to pose of their own volition and so save themselves. The theme espoused by the book's subtitle is not well developed, however. Celeste does search for a home, and readers are shown the two naturalists drawing and feeling frustrated when the art does not come easily, but Cole's description of the emotions inherent in the theme does not evoke them in readers. The story's bittersweet conclusion is similarly unsatisfying. What sets the book apart are the charming pencil illustrations that appear throughout, sometimes filling whole pages—a story about making art, full of art.—Lisa Egly Lehmueller, *St. Patrick's Catholic School, Charlotte, NC*

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From [Booklist](#)

Primarily known as a picture-book artist, Cole now offers a chapter book that devotes only a little more space to text than to illustrations. Celeste, a kindly little mouse, lives below the dining-room floorboards in a rural Louisiana home. Though initially bullied by two rats, Celeste's lot improves when John James Audubon comes to stay at the house, teach the owner's daughter to dance, and paint local birds. Joseph, Audubon's young assistant, befriends Celeste, and her warm friendships with Joseph, a thrush, and an osprey make up most of the tale. When Celeste has harrowing encounters with the rats, the household cat, and a storm-swollen creek, her friends are there to help when mere pluck is not enough. A historical afterword comments on Audubon and Joseph. The episodic story is nicely told, but the softly shaded pencil drawings bring it to life through Cole's exceptional ability to imbue animals with personality without making them cartoonlike. A good choice for young readers seeking longer books. Grades 2–5. --Carolyn Phelan

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Calvin Baker:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim as well as goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They can be reading whatever they get because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home.

Amy McCarter:

This book untitled A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retail outlet or you can order it through online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

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Clarence Williams:

Some individuals said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the particular book A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading talent is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the opinion about book and studying especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and examine it. Beside that the publication A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home can to be your friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of their time.

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