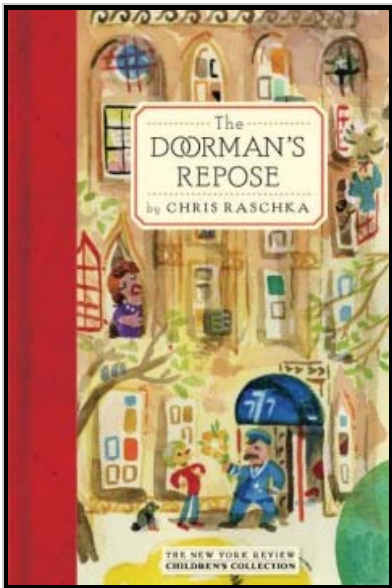




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The Doorman's Repose

by Chris Raschka
Price: \$17.95(Hardcover)
Published: May 16, 2017
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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Some of us look up at those craggy, mysterious apartment buildings found in the posher parts of New York City and wonder what goes on inside. *The Doorman's Repose* collects ten stories of the doings of 777 Garden Avenue, one of the craggiest. The first story recounts the travails of the new doorman, who excels at all aspects of his work except for perhaps the most important—talking baseball. Other stories tell of a long-forgotten room, a cupid-like elevator, a poisoned boiler, and the unlikely romance of a cerebral psychologist and a jazz musician, both mice.

Because the animals talk and the machinery has feelings, these are children's stories. Otherwise they are for any child or adult intrigued by what happens when many people, strangers or kin, live between shared walls and ceilings, under one high, gargoyled, turreted roof.

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About The Author

Chris Raschka
Chris Raschka has written and/or illustrated more than sixty books for children, including *Yo! Yes? Charlie Parker Played Be Bop*; *Mysterious Thelonious*; *Sluggy Slug*; *Five for a Little One*; *A Poke in the I*; and *The Hello, Goodbye Window*. He has received...
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What We Say

Do you know the publishing imprint New York Review Books? For years, their paperback reissues of obscure, forgotten or never-appreciated gems have had a magnetic pull on book lovers. They use a recurring design on their covers so you can spot them a mile away and I've almost literally never been disappointed by their picks. As Criterion is for films on BluRay, NYRB is for books -- if they put it out, you'll want to read it. Now they're doing the same with kids books. So without even glancing at the author or any other details, I simply grabbed a copy of "The Doorman's Repose" simply because it was from New York Review Children's Collection. Like others in their series, I was immediately delighted. It's an unknown treat

(unknown to me, at least) about the people living in a New York City building and the doorman who works there. (He's a very good doorman despite being the rare doorman who has no interest in sports and can't chat knowledgeably about batting orders and the like.) What a pleasure -- you get stories about the building eccentric, kids, old people, the family of mice who swap homes with country mice every summer, the inevitable nosy neighbor who finds pleasure in bossing others around, the city law that requires every large apartment building to have at least one opera singer in resident, a finicky boiler and so on. Each tale was a treat, an innocent reminder of...wait, what? The internet? How could some kid's book from the 1950s or 1970s or 1920s or whenever this first came out reference the internet? Dear God, this book is by Chris Raschka and it's brand new! Can one pay a higher compliment to a book of this sort than to say you believed without a shadow of a doubt it was a long-lost classic that had simply escaped your attention? So consider this a future classic. Each tale gently builds on the one before (that nuisance of a tenant is given her modest due in a later tale) and it culminates in a final story that delivers the work's entire philosophy of life (we're all connected to one another, whether we like it or not) in one final aria. Still, they might have included a map showing Garden Avenue in Manhattan or at least better directions. I keep looking for 777 Garden Avenue on the Upper East Side but can't quite seem to find it. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"Raschka's genius lies in capturing the essence of situations that are deeply felt by children." —*School Library Journal*

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