



The Great Pet Escape

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The class pets at Daisy P. Flugelhorn Elementary School want OUT . . . and GW (short for George Washington), the deceptively cute hamster in the second-grade classroom, is just the guy to lead the way. But when he finally escapes and goes to find his former partners in crime, Barry and Biter, he finds that they actually LIKE being class pets. Impossible!

Just as GW gets Barry and Biter to agree to leave with him, a mouse named Harriet and her many mouse minions get in their way. What follows is class-pet chaos guaranteed to make readers giggle . . . and maybe look at their class pets a little differently in the future.

The Great Pet Escape Details

Date : Published February 16th 2016 by Henry Holt and Co. (BYR)

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Author : Victoria Jamieson

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Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Humor, Animals, Childrens, Academic, School, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Great Pet Escape for online ebook

Mary says

This book offers fun for the whole family. Parents will laugh at the snarky humor. And everyone will love the madcap shenanigans of three classroom pets-GW, Sunflower, and Barry-who bust out of their cages. They plan to escape to freedom from Daisy P. Flugelhorn Elementary School. However, the scheme goes awry when they come up against Harriet (aka Napoleon), her Mouse Minions, and her unlikely ally Lucinda the Snake. I honestly laughed out loud because it's delightfully absurd.

Steve Holden says

As a second grade teacher who has a class pet, the description of this newer book makes it perfect for me to check out and preview! It offers a hilarious concept of class pets in an elementary school teaming up and planning a great escape from the confines of their rooms and school. It's delivered in a graphic novel style, and the illustrations offer some serious laugh out loud moments. The connection to my room is wonderful with GW being in a second grade classroom, and this will be one that I certainly keep for future students to check out and stumble upon. I do feel the content will go over the heads of many early readers, but I'll always have a few students who will be able to fully understand and appreciate some of the humor - all will find something to enjoy and laugh at. I hope there will be more to come from these crazy pets!

Danielle Norris says

This is a cute book. I think students will thoroughly enjoy it. It is light and entertaining. I was excited to read it because I so enjoyed Roller Girl by the same author. This is not a book I feel like has a message but it is funny, and kids will love it and really that is what I am all about really, finding books the kids will like. It is a quick read and entertaining. This is the first book in a new series by Jamieson and it will thrill younger readers.

Annette says

THE GREAT PET ESCAPE by Victoria Jamieson is a hilarious graphic fantasy about what class pets do at night.

When hamster, inventor, and class pet GW (George Washington) escapes from his cage in the second grade classroom, he sets off to free his friends. However he soon finds out that many of his peers like being class pets. Along the way, GW and his friends discover an evil plot by the Harriet, the fourth-grade mouse and must save their school.

Designed for beginning chapter book readers, the simple, colorful panels and engaging storyline will appeal to the target audience.

Although some of the humor may be “over the heads” of younger readers, they’ll “get” the general sarcastic tone. Librarians will find children asking for a sequel. Until then, connect this book with the many other beginning graphic chapter books published the past couple years. Readers of this title are likely to enjoy the Toon Books early chapter books too.

To learn more about the author, go to <http://www.victoriajamieson.com/>.

Published by Henry Holt on February 16, 2016. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

JillyG says

Loved loved loved it!

Scott Robins says

A fun younger reader graphic novel about three classroom pets who want to escape from their cages - lots of silly humour, great characters and dynamic action.

Barbara says

Most students in a classroom with pets have probably wondered what might happen if those animals somehow managed to escape. In this funny graphic novel, that's exactly what occurs although they don't get very far. GW (George Washington), a hamster who longs for the good old days, fashions an escape plan and uses a bobby pin to make his great escape from the second grade classroom. To his dismay, his old friends, Barry and Biter, have come to enjoy being part of their classroom, and they aren't particularly eager to join him. Adversity and old times end up uniting them, and they must face down a very bossy white rat named Harriet. All sorts of crazy things ensue, culminating in a marvelous food fight complete with fish sticks being flung as weapons. I must confess that I chortled as I noted the diminishing number of Mouse Minions and the bulge in the tummy of Lucinda the snake. I also loved the transformation in Biter who has been softened by his time with the kindergarteners and has learned to express his feelings in appropriate ways. I hope that there will be more from these wonderful pets. Elementary and intermediate graders will be quite amused by all these antics and the possibilities with pets gone amuck.

Jillian Heise says

Think Night at the Museum but with classroom pets...full of fun, adventure, and scheming. Super fun graphic novel. Elementary kids will love it, and my middle schoolers probably would have also.

Liz says

Cute adventure story about classroom pets. Surprisingly hilarious.

Abby Johnson says

This super cute and funny graphic novel features a trio of class pets determined to break out of school and regain their freedom... until the 4th and 5th grade pets come up with a dastardly plan to prank the students. There are tons of cute and funny details in the pictures that kids will enjoy looking for. This is an early chapter book graphic novel, perfect for the younger elementary set, though older kids may well enjoy it as a quick read.

Katie Fitzgerald says

This newest book from Newbery Honor graphic novelist Victoria Jamieson is a fantasy story about what might happen if classroom pets suddenly decided to escape. George Washington, or GW, is the hamster in a second grade classroom. When he manages to get out of his cage, he tries to round up some of the other class pets, but finds that many of them have bonded with their captors and would prefer to stay put. As he tries to convince them to join him in his freedom, GW also discovers that Harriet, the rat belonging to the fourth grade class, is up to no good. I am not big on talking animals, but the writing in this is pretty clever, and the artwork does a nice job of revealing the animal characters' personalities. It's also nice to see a class pet story that does something different, and does not just conform to the usual "pet gets lost" or "pet dies while visiting a student's home" plot lines. Telling the story from the animals' point of view is definitely more engaging, and it makes this book a nice read-alike for 8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel ÷ 1 Dog = Chaos by Vivian Vande Velde.

Gemma says

Adorable illustrations and hilariously clever, school-themed jokes & wordplay. There are sprinklings of more complex words/phrases, such as "frontal lobotomy" [referring to the guinea pig's personality change] (pg. 20). However, the story's pacing, general vocabulary, and well-balanced text + illustrations makes this an accessible and age/interest appropriate for elementary+ students.

SO many jokes to love in this book! Classroom pets pulling rank based on which Grade they belonged to, Sunflower talking about her lessons as a Kindergarten pet about colors and sharing and feelings ... a recommended addition to the graphic novel collection!

Jenny says

This was a cute graphic novel, perfect for young readers. The class pets want to escape...or at least GW does. But it seems his two best friends, Barry and Biter, have gotten soft in their captivity and want to remain class pets. Then they meet Harriet and trouble finds GW, Barry and Biter. Will they escape?

Heidi says

G.W., a hamster, is determined to escape from his 'prison'. With an overly elaborate invention he stages his 'great escape'. But he can't leave without his pals, Barry (bunny) and Biter (guinea pig). But unfortunately for G.W., the class pet for a group of second graders, both Barry and Biter are rather content with 'imprisonment'. Biter in fact is so content she has changed her name to Sunflower and practices meditation. G.W. is horrified. As he tries to convince Biter to come along on his escape, Harriet, a mouse from the fourth grade classroom show up and imprisons them for real. But G.W. and his friends are the type to be pushed around and they step up to prevent a coming lunchtime disaster. Jamieson has created a fun early graphic novel for younger readers. The illustrations are expressive and bright and the characters are delightfully entertaining. I look forward to reading upcoming volumes.

Margie says

You laughed out loud repeatedly more than two months ago. You read it again yesterday laughing even more than you did the first time. As an adult you pause to wonder why, realizing readers of all ages will agree with you. We share something in common. We have all attended elementary school. Most readers have had pets in their classrooms. You know you are holding humor gold in your hands when this particular book is read.

On January 11, 2016 as the American Library Association announced the Youth Media Award medal and honor award winners I was among those cheering long and loud for Roller Girl (Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC, March 10, 2015) written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson when it received a Newbery Honor award. Along with many others, I was looking forward to her new graphic novel for the younger set (and those young at heart) with anticipation. The Great Pet Escape (Pets On The Loose) (Henry Holt and Company, February 16, 2016) far exceeds expectations.

My full recommendation: <http://librariansquest.blogspot.com/2016/02/the-great-pet-escape-pets-on-loose.html>