

## Children's Literature Reviews

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### Creepy Castle

John S. Goodall

McElderry Books/Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$8.95. 1998

### Horn Book Guide:

Volume X Number 2 Fall 1999 Picture Books Rating 3, Recommended, satisfactory in style, content and/or illustration.

### Reviews:

#### Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

The wordless book makes a comeback in this re-issue of a John S. Goodall story from 1975. The action takes place on the trademark Goodall half-pages of each spread (fourteen in all). A fearless swashbuckling mouse does his best to protect his fellow adventurer lady-mouse from scary bats and a scaly dragon before finally enabling them both to escape into the moat, where they are paddled off to safety by a friendly frog on a lily pad. The bad guy who stalked them at the beginning of the book and cruelly locked them in the creepy castle gets his comeuppance when Sir Mouse whacks him with his walking stick because Mr. Bad Guy is trying to shoot a swan. Kids (and grownups) find these tiny, stylish books irresistible to read and re-read. This reviewer hopes teachers will never use them to "test" young readers, but cherish them for their delicate appreciation of storytelling. The half-page plot changes, unique to Goodall's books, always delight and astonish the reader. Associated titles to look for include *Shrewbettina's Birthday*, *Naughty Nancy Goes to School*, and *The Midnight Adventures of Kelly, Dot, and Esmeralda*. Goodall's long career as an artist of renown in Britain is truly cherished by kids lucky enough to own these small treasures. 1998, McElderry Books/Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$8.95. Ages 3 to adult.

#### Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Fall 1999)

In four of Goodall's adventures-without-words, costumed animals have various adventures. Disparities in color and inexact matching up of pictures from the half-page inserts to the full-page ones are a minor distraction in these humorous stories full of charming detail. Category: Picture Books. 1999 (orig. 1975), McElderry, 60pp, \$8.95. *Ages 4 to 9*. Rating: 3: Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and/or illustration.

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[Goodall, John S.](#)

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