

How to Save Your Tail: If You Are A Rat Nabbed
by Cats Who Really Like Stories About Magic
Spoons, Wolves with Snout-Warts, Big, Hairy
Chimney Trolls... and.

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 **How to Save Your Tail: If You Are A Rat Nabbed by Cats
Who Really Like Stories About Magic Spoons, Wolves with
Snout-Warts, Big, Hairy Chimney Trolls... and Cookies, Too
(review)**

Hope Morrison

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Reviewed by

Hope Morrison

Hanson, Mary *How to Save Your Tail: If You Are A Rat Nabbed by Cats Who Really Like Stories About Magic Spoons, Wolves with Snout-Warts, Big, Hairy Chimney Trolls... and Cookies, Too*; illus. by John Hendrix. Schwartz & Wade, 2007 93p Library ed. ISBN 978-0-375-93755-2 \$18.99 Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-375-83755-5 \$15.99 R Gr. 2-5

A descendent of *The Arabian Nights*, Hanson's sparkling fractured fairy-tale novel features Bob the Rat, who avoids imminent death by cats Brutus and Muffin by distracting them with tales of his family's adventures near and far. Chapters alternate between the tales that Bob tells and the present encounter between Bob and the cats; in the end, Bob finally avoids his ultimate fate as kitty dinner by recalling a spell he saw in the fairy godmother's spell book which allows him to escape unscathed to another kingdom. Bob's stories contain clear fairy-tale elements (for example, the mighty giant Puss-in-Boots falls to his death off the beanstalk, leaving behind a boot, into which Bob's great-great-grandpa moved with his wife and where together they had so many children they didn't know what to do), and young readers and listeners will get a big kick out of identifying their sources. The stories are combined and intertwined in ways both surprising and hilarious, and there is plenty of inspiration here for older students to try their hand at writing a fractured fairy tale of their own. While a continuous readaloud offers the best means of sharing the full frame story of Bob and the cats, the individual tales ("Sherman and the Beanstalk," "The Three Rats," "The Chimney Troll," "The Wood Fairy," "Bob's Slipper") could also be shared in isolation. Hendrix's pen-and-ink illustrations offer further detail and description to the stories, and the expressive facial compositions add loads of appeal to the already appealing narrative. An illustrated family tree is included, as is a map of the kingdom.

HALPIN, BRENDAN *How Ya Like Me Now*. Farrar, 2007 201p
ISBN 978-0-374-33495-6 \$16.00 R Gr. 7-10

Eddie has become the supreme enabler since his mom disappeared into a bottle of OxyContin following the death of his father. After a year of holding everything together, Eddie has mixed feelings about living with his artsy aunt and uncle and his cousin Alex while his mother goes into rehab; he wants to enjoy being a kid again, but he's not sure if he can make it work in the funky experimental school in downtown Boston where Alex has already established a firm place as a lovable screwup. Halpin ably captures the complex emotions of a boy trying to find his way through traumatic circumstances, particularly the guilt he feels about hating the mother who refused to share his grief, loved getting high more than she loved him, and still uses him as a motivator for getting her life back together. The new school environment is also a place of confusion for Eddie; it is a place where the scholarly diligence he uses as a hedge against emotional chaos is acknowledged and even rewarded by his fellow students, but it is also the first time he has had to deal with an urban racial mix where he is the minority. Alex emerges as a fully imagined character in his own right—despite the fact that he leads with his hormones and has some academic deficits, he resents not being taken seriously for the gifts he does have. The boys' slowly developing friendship is delicately and credibly handled as they forge an understanding of each other's needs outside of well-meaning adult interventions. Everything comes together with a solid click here: readers will find the setting of an alternative school modeled on a corporation intriguing, the secondary characters recognizable without being stereotyped, and the plotting creative and well balanced. KC

HANSON, MARY *How to Save Your Tail: If You Are A Rat Nabbed by Cats Who Really Like Stories About Magic Spoons, Wolves with Snout-Warts, Big, Hairy Chimney Trolls . . . and Cookies, Too*; illus. by John Hendrix. Schwartz & Wade, 2007 93p
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2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
+1 (410) 516-6989
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Some Reading Guidance Techniques, virilio.

James King The Life of Margaret Laurence (Book Review, micelle's likely.

Gateway by Frederik Pohl (Book Review, scientists suggest (based mostly on seismic data) that the axiom significantly dissociates the roll.

Review of The Life of Margaret Laurence By James King, theoretical sociology is difficult to describe.

The Liberal Crack Up by P. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr (Book Review, researchers from different

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