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Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People

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Marrin, Albert. *Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People*. Illustrated by C.B. Mordan. Dutton, 2006. ISBN 0525477624. \$16.99. 48 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books; Picture books;

Subject: Rats--Juvenile literature; Human-animal relationships--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Marrin shares his first encounter with a rat in his childhood and in the course of *Oh Rats* helps young readers understand--and not fear--the stigmatized animal. The book is informative on all things related to rats: from their ancestors in the days of dinosaurs to their social interactions to the two main species of rat to their culinary uses. The text is easy to read and, while it jumps from subject to subject, each subject has its own section. The black, red, pink, and white illustrations are appealingly fun and slightly spooky. Small boxes set in the main text provide shorter rat facts or stories. Marrin includes not only a bibliography of his sources, but also provides some notes on "Rats in Literature" and further reading suggestions. Recommended for readers age 9-12.