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If you Take a Mouse to the Movies

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This book is a reliable addition to the If You Give a Mouse a Cookie legacy, but with a charming holiday twist. In the story, the mouse convinces the little boy to bring him to the movies. The movie popcorn includes string to make a garland, and it’s all winter fun from there. The boy and mouse go on to build snowmen, decorate a Christmas tree, and so forth, following a sequence of traditional, North American Christmas activities. The illustrations support the storytelling by hinting at the next event to occur in the text in a way that would excite youngsters to find the clue for what happens next.

The illustrations in this nearly square picture book mostly feature bright, primary colors with dynamic characters. The mouse especially has some exciting movement in the pictures as he is practically leaping across the pages, spilling glitter in his wake. It’s a very cheerful read, the text being hardly necessary as the illustrations tell such a wild story on their own. Dependably following a predictable pattern, this book would be a fun read to repeat with small children; however, it doesn’t offer anything new for older readers. The Christmas activities in the book, while not supporting religion in any way other than having a Christmas tree, represent a very specific demographic. The book is charming but as expected.