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The Girl Who Wouldn't Brush Her Hair

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Book Review

The Girl Who Wouldn't Brush Her Hair

Author

Kate Bernheimer

Illustrator

Jake Parker

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

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Rating

Dependable

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

40

Year

2013

ISBN

9780375868788

Publisher

Schwartz & Wade

A young girl washes her hair but refuses to brush it, because that's just how she is. A mouse sets up a roost in her tangles and she enjoys his company. Then there are two mice, then three, then one hundred. Living with so many mice is getting complex, but she makes it work. When teacher finally tells her she has broken the rule of one companion at nap time and must leave her beloved doll at home, our heroine is inspired. Kindly evicting the furry inhabitants, she finally washes her hair again. This time she brushes it out, because that's just how she is.

Parker offers a book filled with beautiful illustrations with rich warm colors, making for a merry flip from page to page. The story is entertaining, but there is a lack of learning on the heroine's part that would make this a better tale. She likes her mice; she just likes her doll more. So while the mice do have to move out, the reason that she decides to brush her hair is a little ambiguous. It might have been more useful if she had discovered that hair brushing is good grooming and careful hygiene contributes to good health. This book is quite fun, but the theme lacks some depth.