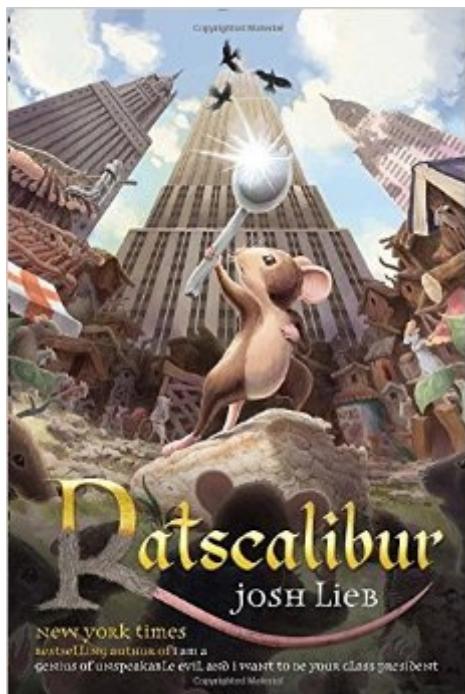


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Ratscalibur (Chronicles Of The Low Realm)



Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of *I Am A Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to Be Your Class President*—A witty mash-up of favorite fantasy motifs.— “New York Times Book Review” *Ratscalibur* is funny, it’s scary, and it’s sweet, like life. But it has talking rats and magic, so it’s better than life.— “Jimmy Fallon” *Full of clever dialogue and hilarious puns...* Don’t be surprised if this novel achieves best-seller status.— “Booklist” *The only way I could’ve liked this more is if I were eleven.*— “Ira Glass” *A charming take on an old favorite.*— “Publishers Weekly” *When Joey is bitten by an elderly rat, he goes from aspiring seventh-grader to three-inch tall rodent. At first, Joey is amazed by his new rat self. The city streets call to him at night. Smells that would have repelled him before are suddenly tantalizing. (A chicken bone? Yes! A squashed cockroach? Like perfume!) And wow, the freedom! But when a bout of hunger leads Joey to pull the spork from the scone, he finds himself at the center of a longtime rat prophecy. Joey has unwittingly unlocked the sword Ratscalibur; and now, it is up to him to protect his new rat friends from the evil crows who seek to destroy their peaceful kingdom. But what does an eleven-year-old know about actual swordplay? And what happens when Joey no longer wants to be a rat?*From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars *See all reviews* (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,234 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #319 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths #658 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

Summary: Joey isn't very excited about moving to the city, and isn't much comforted when Uncle Patrick shows up with a gift—a new pet rat. That night, though, the rat talks to Joey, and the next thing Joey knows, he has turned into a rat himself. The rat sends him on a quest, and Joey the rat discovers the Lower Realm, a kingdom of rats and other creatures that lives throughout the city. Joey notices that most of the rats are armed, so he decides to grab a plastic spork he sees stuck in a stale biscuit. He pulls it out, and all the rats fall silent. It turns out that spork is Excalibur, the Spork in the Scone, and the fact that Joey has pulled it out means he is destined to be a hero. And the adventure begins! Pros: I admit, my expectations of a book called *Ratscalibur* written a TV writer were pretty low. I was happily surprised by this exciting adventure story peopled (ratted?) with a cast of interesting characters. The magic (or ragic, as it's called in the rat world) has a complicated set of rules which were fun to learn about, and there's a surprising twist near the end which seems to lay the groundwork for a sequel. Cons: Many of the Arthurian allusions will be lost on young readers. Indeed, I have a feeling quite a few were lost on this older reader.

Since watching BBC's Merlin series (which we also highly recommend, by the way) last year my kids have become fascinated with Camelot and King Arthur. When I saw this book I knew it would make a great birthday present for my 9 year old who is also a big fan of books involving talking animals. I was right - this book IS fantastic and he loved it. It's not the deepest book out there, but it's a playful/imaginative/funny and clever spoof. I'm sure that some of the humor and plot plays in it are perhaps lost on him, but he found the book engaging and enjoyable - and so did I when I picked it up and read it. It's a quick read with larger text and fun pen illustrations in it, aimed at the 4th to 6th grade level. I think sometimes the quick reads like this (170 pages, lots of pics on pages) are the best type to boost kids confidence in their reading skills. This book is supposed to be the first in a series and if more come out we will definitely pick them up. Two thumbs up for an entertaining and humorous quick read!

This guy is very thorough in how boy/rat works in his own world. The language captures junior high school kid-speak in a poetic way. And he's consistent in the various species as they are represented. Thank you, late night host who recommended this new book by his writer, but he shall

be unnamed because this review is of Josh Loeb.

Whether they read it themselves or have it read to them, kids who love lots of action and adventure will love this chapter book. Even those not sure about fantasy should recognize how cool it would be to be transformed into a hero. Especially if that hero is (ugh) a rat. What I loved as an adult was the fun Lieb had playing with the Arthurian legend and a dash of Tolkien. Hee-hee-hee.

I am a serious fan of Sir Arthur and his knights. I absolutely love this clever play on the legend. The good guys/girls are all loveable; the bad guys are really bad. Was not ready for it to end; not to worry, all doors were left open for a sequel - can't wait!

This is a silly, ratified version of the king Arthur story in which Joey, an 11 year old boy who has been turned into a rat, pulls ratscalibur, a spork, from a stale scone proving that he is the one who will fulfill the prophesy and save the rats of Ravalon. The book is fun and fast paced and I think it would make a cute cartoon movie.

This is a pretty fun book. In the realms of world building, this book is really strong. The plot though is something fantasy fans have seen a millions times before (ok, so most fantasy heroes don't turn into rats, but a lot of them get stranded in another world), and there are so many references to drive me bonkers. But I think kids who haven't been exposed to this stuff would like it.

I think this would be a fine book for a person circa nine or ten years old; I just found it going down a path too similar to "The Hobbit" or "Watership Down" and similar anthropomorphic animal adventure stories about the triumph of ordinary souls over evil and hardship. I loved the two books I just cited and wish I could discover them anew -- but this one doesn't quite fill their shoes.

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