

# **A Bad Mouse Ruins the House**

by Swapna Gangopadhyay

*Children's Book....But now for parents too*

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# **A Bad Mouse Ruins the House**

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nce upon a time there was a big house on the mountain where Grandma and Grandpa Clouse lived with lots of love and joy. It was like a dream castle in the middle of the mountains, with the beautiful streams and fountains. It was very quiet and really peaceful to live in. Grandma and Grandpa Clouse cherished every moment in that house with their friends and families along with their staff: Mr. Butler aka Mr. Buttmann, Mr. Doorman, Mrs. Cleanex, Mr. and Mrs. Cook and their little boy, Walter who loved to play with Grandma and Grandpa very much.

Grandma and Grandpa Clouse were also friends with all the animals in the mountain. Lions, tigers, bears, elephants and all other animals in the mountain loved them very much. The lion, king of the animals gave Grandma a ‘Magic Button’ and asked her to use it anytime for help if she was in danger.

Grandma and Grandpa Clouse had lots of fun all day long. They enjoyed hiking, biking, boating, fishing on the lake, dancing in the garden, reading good books, eating gourmet foods and not to mention taking lots of naps all day long.



At night, the house felt like a peaceful sanctuary and it was as quiet as a mouse. It was just magical.

But one day, Grandma Clouse heard some noise in the house.

She called Grandpa Clouse and said, “Oh dear!! I do fear. I think we have a bad mouse in the house!”

Grandpa Clouse smiled and said, “My dear, not to fear. Your savior, Grandpa Clouse is here. Don’t worry and don’t hurry. There is no mouse in the house. You are dreaming. Calm down, wear your sleeping gown, rest your head on your pillow, and go to sleep.”

A couple of days passed by and everything was quiet.

But the next day Grandma Clouse heard some noise again in the pantry. She called Grandpa Clouse and said, “My dear, hurry down here! We have a mouse in the house!”

But by the time Grandpa reached the pantry, the mouse had run away and disappeared already. Grandpa smiled and said, “My dear, there is no mouse in the house. But if there is a mouse in the house, I will take care of that troublemaker when I get back from town. A small, cute harmless mouse will not ruin our house. So don’t worry. Relax and sit tight. Everything will be alright.”

That night when Grandma Clouse went to bed, she suddenly felt like someone was pulling her bed cover and asking for food. She woke up and got scared when she saw a mouse saying, “Hey lady, where is the ice cream? Get up and open the refrigerator. I am craving for ice cream.”

Grandma said, “Who are you? What are you doing in my house?”

Mouse said, “I am a cute loving mouse as your husband said. I am just here because I have tested positive with COVID and I will be in quarantine here in a remote place like this for a while.”

Grandma said, “What? You are here because you are COVID positive? Oh my gosh!!! You are quarantining in my house, and you didn’t tell me until now? Where is your mask?”

Mouse said, “Lady, masks are for losers. It affects your brain. I don’t wear a mask. It will ruin my image. I didn’t tell you because I didn’t want to scare you. I am a cool operator. I am also known as “Mr. Cool” – and he dances a little to show off how cool he is.

Grandma said, “Don’t come near me. And stop dancing.”



Mouse said, “Relax, lady. You aren’t my type!!”

Grandma said, “What did you say?”

Mouse said, “I said that you aren’t my type, because you are old and you were never a model. I only like models.”

Grandma said, “I can’t believe this!”

Mouse said, “You better believe it, lady. I will be here for a while.”

Grandma got up and put her silk robe on, which she noticed was ruined by the Mouse because it had lots of holes. When grandma started walking towards the kitchen, she got a bad smell and saw mouse droppings everywhere in the house. All the foods from the pantry were all over the floor. She was shocked when she went to her closet and saw all the clothes were ruined too. Mouse had taken bites out of all her clothes. Even worse, she was devastated when she saw her wedding dress was ruined too! She said, “Oh my gosh, you ruined my wedding dress too!”

Mouse said, “That’s a very expensive silk dress. I just took some of the material for my fiancé’s wedding dress. Is it from France? Lady, you are very rich. You have lots of expensive dresses and jewelry. I might carry some back home because I am getting married next month.”

Grandma was crying at this point and said, “I can’t believe my ears! You ruined my wedding dress and you are still here telling me you will take more...”

Mouse said, “Lady, cool down!! You are old, you are fat, and you will never fit in that dress again. I am doing you a favor. I am trying to repurpose that expensive dress. It’s HUGE!! You should thank me. Instead, you are angry with me? Unbelievable!! You are the most ungrateful woman I have ever seen.”

Grandma started walking around the house looking at all the damages he has done. Mouse kept on following her to the kitchen.

Grandma said, “You are destroying my house. You are making a mess everywhere. You are ruining all my clothes in the closet, food in the pantry, and leaving mouse droppings all over the house and even on the piano too...Oh no!” She looked at the piano and started crying again.

Mouse said, “Don’t say house. It’s a mansion. It’s a castle. It’s majestic and I like it here.”

On his way to the kitchen, Mouse danced around the piano, pointed to some of the pictures, and asked, “Who are these fools?”

Grandma said, “What did you say? Don’t be rude! These are my son’s and my husband’s pictures. They were in the military serving our country.”

Mouse said, “Yea, yea I know what they told you...You are gullible. I call them losers and fools. I know those useless talks. .. you know what I mean...lima bean...ha, ha, ha!!!”



Oh my Gosh!!  
"My Husband & Son"  
They served in Military

Who are those  
losers & suckers



Mouse laughed loudly and said, “Hey lady why don’t you fix me a large bowl of ice cream with all the toppings as I asked you to do?”

Grandma said, “I can’t believe my ears. You are a rude, obnoxious, self-centered and a most selfish creature I have ever seen. You have no respect for anybody. You must leave and you must leave now. Let me call my butler to escort you out.”

When Grandma called her butler he came running to the kitchen in his sleeping pajamas and sleeping hat. He also called all the staff in the mansion; everybody woke up and ran to the kitchen.

Grandma said to her butler, “Mr. Buttman, please escort the mouse out of my house.”

Mouse said, “Are you talking about this butler aka Mr. Buttman? He will not do anything because he is working for me, not for you my Lady. Ha ha ha.”

Mr. Buttman said, “Yes ma’am, I can’t do that.”

Grandma said, “Why?”

Mouse said, “He works for me now. He is my butler, not yours.”

Grandma said, “What??”

Mr. Buttman said, “Yes, ma’am. Mr. Mouse hired me and promised me the Taj Mahal. That’s a bigger mansion than yours, ma’am. So I am working for him.”

Grandma got mad and said, “Mr. Buttman, you are fired! Please pack your bags and leave the mansion immediately.”

Mr. Buttman got upset and said to Mouse, “What are you going to do now? You made me get fired. Give me the key to the Taj Mahal as you promised.”

Mouse said innocently, “What key? What Taj Mahal?”

Mr. Butler said, “The key to the Taj Mahal in India that you bought for billions of dollars, as you said.”

Mouse said, “There is no key to the Taj Mahal in India. I lied. I never bought it. You are a stupid man. Do you think I have billions of dollars to buy that property, and do you really think that the Taj Mahal will ever be for sale? You are a loser and a sticky head. Get out of the house, as the lady said.”

Mr. Buttman said, “What? I just lost my job of 25 years for nothing. I was ready to retire and I will lose my pension too. I did so much for you! I was the one who trusted you, opened the door and let you in. I gave you the access to the east wing, west wing, executive suites and access codes to the pantry, mam’s closet, and now you are depriving me of what you promised? I will sue you.”

Mouse said, “I already sued you in the higher court and won. Go and fight back, loser.”

Mr. Buttman said, “I will unveil your disguise now! Ma’am, he is not a mouse. He is a RAT with dyed orange buzz cut hair. He is a huge RAT. He is no good. He is hiding here with his buddies Hoody and Loody who are hiding under the rug.”

Mouse interrupted and said, “Those are their ‘code’ names, you know. Hoody and Loody are huge, highly respected and big shots in the city.”

Hoody and Loody suddenly came out of the rugs, raised their hands and started chanting, “Make Mouse Great Again!! Make Mouse Great Again!! Lock her up! Lock her up!!”

Mouse said to Hoody and Loody, “Shut up sticky heads. Stand by and stand back. Let me take care of this old lady.”

Mr. Buttman continued, “Mouse thinks the IRS will not find him in this remote location and that’s why he is hiding here. He doesn’t have COVID. He lied to you.”

Hoody said, “Well, he is not only hiding from IRS. He is also hiding from the IRS, CBS, HHS, FBI, CBI, NBI and.....”

Mouse said, “Hoody, cut it out, not now, idiot.”

Hoody said, “Yes Boss. My bad,” and he went back under the rug.

Mr. Cook said, “Ma’am, Mouse asked me to put RAT Poison in your food last night so that you would die before Grandpa Clouse comes back home. But I didn’t do it!”

Grandma said, “Is that right? What do you have to say for yourself, Mouse?”

Mouse said, “Look, lady, what do you have to lose? You’re old and you are not getting younger. In the meantime, you might die from COVID. So this might help you. It might build herd immunity for you. You never know.”

Grandma said, “I could die from this too. Did you think of that?”

Mouse said, “Look, it’s an experimental drug and I invented it. See if it kills rats, it could kill the COVID virus too, and it’s safer to experiment on you because you are old, and if you die, no harm is done. I will be here forever.” He smiled and continued, “That’s the plan.” He did high fives with Hoody and Loody.

Grandma said to her staff, “Throw him out of the mansion now. I don’t want to see his ugly face again!”

Mouse started shouting at Grandma, “Do you know what you are? You are a monster. You are a nasty woman.”

Grandma said, “Really? All right then. Go and leave my house.”



Mouse changed his tone and said pleadingly, “No, no I’m just kidding. I like it here. I love your place.”

Grandma said, “Doesn’t matter. Leave now.”

Mouse said, “Where am I going to go in the middle of the night? I am a city Rat. My friends and “Rat Boys” need time to come here to pick me up. I cannot go anywhere right now in the middle of the night. All those animal friends of yours will kill me. Lady, be reasonable.”

Grandma said, “I don’t care. Get out of my house right now. You destroyed my house, insulted my family, tried to kill me with rat poison, and NOW you want me to be reasonable?”

Mouse said, “Lady, please understand my situation. I will be killed by those mountain animals if I leave now. They are just waiting for me outside. You don’t want me to be killed. Do you? I don’t think so. Just give me some time. Let me call my friends and I will leave first thing in the morning. Okay, are you happy now?”

Grandma said, “Fine, you can stay tonight. You will leave first thing in the morning.”

Mouse quickly called his friends on the phone and said, “Rat Boys, stand up and start action. Location is Clouse Mansion in the Mountain....Over.”

Then his friend Hoody said to Grandma, “How about a going away party for our friends who are coming from the city? Maybe some wine, cheese, crackers and all the foods that we like ... here is the list.”

Grandma said, “You must be out of your mind. Nobody is planning a going away party for you guys.”

Hoody turned around and said, “I’m a lawyer and lady, listen to me. It’s a democratic country. Legally you are bound to give a party. Otherwise, we are not leaving your house. We have won the possession of this mansion. We are the owners now and we are going to fight for our right. We sued you already and we are going to take you to the Supreme Court. You better be aware of my power. I am Hoody, the best lawyer in town”.

All on a sudden Loody attacked Grandma and said, “Lady, you better believe it. We are not going anywhere. Rat Boys are here, and I just opened the door. They are taking over your mansion.”

Grandma said, “Not on my watch.”

Mouse started fire on the floor and said, “I told you. I am not leaving. I like it here. You better leave and find a new place to live. Otherwise, this fire will kill you. Bye, bye old lady. You got a bad mouse in the house. Ha ha ha!”

Suddenly, one of the Rat Boys looked at Grandma and said to Mouse, “Oh my gosh!! Are you kidding? She isn’t just any old lady. She is the Queen of this jungle. She has killer weapons. She can kill all of us in seconds. She has a Magic Button and she can get all the help she needs to kill all of us. Sorry, we can’t help you. We are leaving.” And they ran as fast as they could.

Mouse got worried with the Rat Boys leaving and said, “Come back. Come back Rat Boys...!”

Hoody said, “Don’t worry Boss. We got this. Trust me we can still get the job done.”

Then Mouse, Hoody and Loody jumped on Grandma, and tried to bite her. Grandma got hurt and fell down on the floor and she said, “That’s it. Let me teach you a lesson hard way.” And she quickly pushed the magic button. All her friends: tigers, lions, bears elephants and all other animals came to rescue her. Her staff started taking care of Hoody and Loody. They also grabbed the mouse and pretended to throw him in the fire that he started earlier on the floor to scare Grandma.

Mouse started crying and said, “Please forgive me. I will not do it again. Please pardon me.”

Grandma said to mouse, “Who is laughing now?”

Grandma said, “Don’t throw him in the fire. Lock him up and put him in the jail forever.”

As they dragged him out of the house, Mouse kept on saying, “I am winning!!! I am winning!!! I will be back again!!!”

So, moral of the story is clear: don’t be rude and disrespectful to others. Don’t underestimate people and don’t try to take advantage of anybody. Otherwise, you will get your rewards just like Mouse did..



## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Swapna Gangopadhyay is a dreamer. *A Bad Mouse in the House* is her first book and it's a product of her dream that gave her an audacity to venture into the professional writers' world with fear, humility and high expectation. She is new to the literary world but she is no stranger in the Technology world. She is a technocrat who advocates and practices the power of technology. She worked all her life in technical fields. Over the years, she collected lots of materials in her writer's toolbox to start this new venture. In this book she flew in a wonderland with her wings of imagination, sense of humor and ability to dream. She landed in an unknown territory where fun, fiction and laughter lived together in harmony.

**Dedicated to my granddaughters**  
**Dolly Doll and Baby Doll**

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Oh my Gosh!!  
"My Husband & Son"  
They served in Military

Who are those  
losers & suckers





