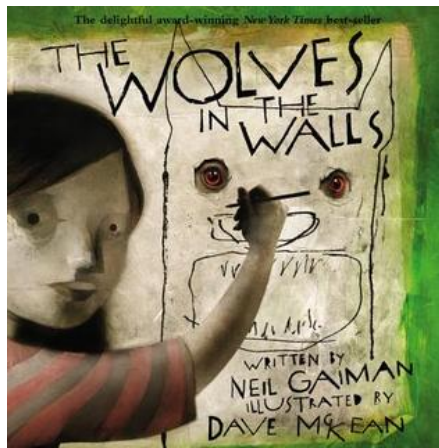




# The Wolves in the Walls

*Neil Gaiman , Dave McKean (Illustrator)*

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**The Wolves in the Walls** Neil Gaiman , Dave McKean (Illustrator)

Lucy hears sneaking, creeping,  
crumpling noises  
coming from inside  
the walls.

She is sure there are  
wolves living in  
the walls  
of her house.

But, as everybody says, if the wolves come out of the walls, it's all over.

## The Wolves in the Walls Details

Date : Published 2003 by HarperCollins

ISBN : 9780380810956

Author : Neil Gaiman , Dave McKean (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 56 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels

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## From Reader Review The Wolves in the Walls for online ebook

### Carly says

Probably one of the only picture books I really, really like. Creepy as all heck, though. Come to think of it, that's probably why I like it.

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### Amy says

I am always looking for unique, quality storybooks to keep on my shelves long after my children have children. I struggle to find something special in between "I love you Forever" and "Dumb Bunnies". Sometimes I think I find it when I see breathtaking illustrations, often to be disappointed when the words aren't in the same league. This book absolutely has both. If your children get scared easily- mine do not- then I might skip this one. It is written in fairytale prose and that may keep some kids from thinking about it any more than the "big bad wolf", but on the other hand, the scratchy drawings of wolves coming out of the walls may stick with kids...after they've been tucked in. My family loved it, both adults, the 8 year old and the 5 year old. My son decided that writing books would be a "cool thing to do" when he grew up after reading this...that's gotta count for something!

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### Sommer says

Haha, ok - the below review is one I wrote on Amazon.com in October of 2003. A review, I might add, that was found to be useful by 9 out of 9 Amazon members. Wow, I know, wow...

I recently read this book outloud to my cousin and he LOVED it! The book is so intuitive and allows so much expression and voice intonation. The characters are distinct individuals and I could instantly find their voice. The art is simply amazing - I've been a fan of McKean for years. I really don't think kids should be underestimated in their intelligence to appreciate the interesting art that mixes striking artwork and snippits of pictures of real-life objects. There is more to the artwork than that, but that's another review.

Some may think this book will frighten children, but it seems more like a healthy lesson in showing how silly such fear can be. The book is more about defeating fear, as the family was able to get rid of the wolves so easily. In the end the things that seem so scary (monsters under the bed, etc) are silly things that can be defeated with a simple look. And it doesn't hurt that this book is written cleverly and with wonderful style.

I could go on and on about this book, but I will just sum up by saying: art is great, writing is great, story is fun and interesting and great for dramatic outloud readings, and the story is an excellent lesson in the silliness of childhood fears.

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### Anne says

My kids really liked it. My eight year old son read it and thought it was good. He thought the illustrations were cool because the people had "spooky" eyes. I read it to my six year old son and my four year old

daughter, and they liked it also. My little girl actually made me read it to her twice. Her only complaint was that the wolves were just regular old wolves and not werewolves. Go figure.  
I think some younger kids might find the story a little bit scary, so be careful if your kids spook easily.

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### Ajeje Brazov says

Una favoletta dark simpatica, surreale, ironica. I disegni sono davvero particolari, un collage di vari stili, chiamiamole delle tavole "rappezzate", originali e fuori dell'ordinario. La storia è molto semplice, ma scritta con stile coinvolgente e appassionante!  
Il mio "personaggio" preferito? Il maialino di pezza!

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### Robert says

This is a great story about parents not listening to their daughter and said daughter saving their home. It also has wolves...in the walls! It comes with a CD of Gaiman reading the story aloud, which I haven't heard yet...but if the readings from The Ocean at the End of the Lane I heard him give last week are anything to go by, it should be excellent. It is just the kind of story that should be read aloud, too, full of the rhythms and repeated refrains that fit with oral story telling.

McKean's illustrations are not readily described, which is a good thing because that means they are not cliched or boring. They seem to be some kind of digital fusion of photographic and painted elements that create a sort of collage effect I've not really seen before. They are very evocative of mood and are just as excellent as the story, which makes a doubly excellent book, overall.

Great stuff.

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### Shayan says

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### Jaya says

What a strange-spooky little thing of a book (for kiddies?) with some very interesting artwork.  
Ok. I am really spooked

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### Airiz C says

Am I the only one who thought this is a mishmash of H.P. Lovecraft's "The Rats in the Walls" and the classic wolf-riddled admonitory bedtime stories like "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf"? The Wolves in the Walls, a collab work by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean, is yet another landmark

tale that speaks directly to young readers while teaching a few lessons like open communication in the family.

SPOILER-ISH! Basically the story revolves around Lucy (aka the girl who cried wolf), who tells her family about the wolves lurking behind the wallpapers. Her relatives however dismissed her fears as a product of her overactive imagination, and they are actually too engrossed into their own worlds to deal with Lucy: her mother (like any mother) is a personification of domestic order, her oblivious father plays tuba, and her annoying brother plays video games. Nobody believes her...until the wolves do plunge out of the walls, invading the house and rendering the family homeless. Lucy is the one who acts to glue the family together. With a Coralinesque bravery and a simple strategy, she goes back to save her stranded toy, Pig Puppet, and in the process they are able to get their house back.

The characters—at least in the part of the relatives—are reminiscent of the people in *The Day I Swapped my Dad with Two Goldfish*. The hardnosed heroine reminds me of *Coraline*, though there are numerous differences between them. It's a pretty rad read all in all, though of course I'll appreciate it more if I'm a kid. :p With Lucy hearing those noises, I imagine it striking a chord with a lot of kids, since the very scene embody common fears of a child. There are significant lessons embedded in the storyline as well, making the story weightier.

I've learned that this tale is conceived with help from the kids of the Gaiman and McKean. Maddy Gaiman has a nightmare of wolves scratching the walls of their house. Gaiman helped Maddy cope with this fear by storytelling, making strategies to escape from the wolves or something like that—and these plotting became a part of the story. Liam McKean does only a little contribution though, and this is the image of the Pig Puppet. :p I think it's quite adorable, how they pieced together things from real kids and create something that kids can appreciate. :)

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## Ronyell says

Dave McKean's illustrations are both haunting and hilarious at the same time. The wolves are portrayed as drawings made by a child, as it is implied on the front cover of the book. The wolves are also drawn in both a frightening and humorous way throughout the book. A great example of an image where the wolves display both terror and humor is in the image of the wolves being shown in creepy shadows as they are watching television and are laughing their heads off. Another advantage that this book has is the heroine Lucy. Lucy knew that trouble was about to begin and tries to warn her family of the danger of staying in the house, even though her family do not believe her at first. Then, when the family is in danger of moving away, Lucy has the courage to save their house from the wolves, despite her family's objections, making her the heroine of the story.

"The Wolves in the Walls" have creative and scary illustrations by Dave McKean and have a strong heroine in Lucy, who saved her family from the wolves. However, the story falls flat on the scare factor as the wolves are only perceived as the usual unwelcome guests in the family's home and the story is slow-paced as it took time for the family to decide to rush back to their home. If you want a story that is both action-packed and scary, then read Neil Gaiman's other books such as, "*Coraline*" and "*The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*."

From my Epinions review:

[http://www99.epinions.com/review/The\\_...](http://www99.epinions.com/review/The_...)

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### Abdollah zarei says

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### Amina says

Watch out! something can be living in your walls, and when it comes out.. it's all over..  
Simply brilliant.

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### ? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

Cute and a little bit spooky kid's book by Neil Gaiman. The illustrations are done by the same guy who did the Sandman graphic novels, so it's got that familiar vibe. I guess you could call it a bit "moody and atmospheric and artsy." It's very Gaimanish. Points for creating the word "squossucks."

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### Catherine ? says

I'm sure this would've been spookier if I had the images (I listened to it), but nevertheless it had the same delightful bedtime story vibe to it.

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### Kathryn says

We love this book! It is fast becoming a favorite in my house. Sooo much fun to read aloud. I can make my 5 year old jump every time and he loves it. The art is amazing but the writing really stands out as something extra special, especially considering that this is a children's story. I rarely recommend buying a children's book outright considering that your library is readily available, children's books are quick reads, and kids attention spans are notoriously short but this book I can wholeheartedly recommend buying.

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### Sara Williams says

Book #1 REVEZATONA

Soooo adorable! Once again, Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean combined their skills and created a lovely little illustrated book with a satisfactory plot. The illustrations are incredible, even though I'm not the biggest fan of this art style.

This is the story of a little girl who starts hearing Wolves inside the walls of her house, but no one seems to believe her, until the wolves invade their home. Of course, parents never listen to their children.

I certainly enjoyed it.

## Michael says

Spooky! Not for the faint of heart: my five year old almost had nightmares over this one. But it is so atmospheric and alluring, you can't stop reading!

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## Glitterbomb says

Wow, that was a crazy read! It was dark and twisty and funny and charming, all at the same time. The illustrations are unreal (!) and tie in with the story brilliantly! I am utterly enchanted!

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## Mochizuki says

The Wolves in the Walls is a story about Lucy and her family, and how they have wolves living in their walls - or at least that's what Lucy thinks. She hears scratching and nibbling in the walls and is convinced that the noises are coming from the wolves. But everyone that Lucy tells (her mom, dad and brother,) dismisses her concerns with more believable explanations. Little do they know, Lucy isn't that far-fetched...

The illustrations of this book are magnificent and amazing, making the entire book a work of art. Interestingly, the wolves are cartoon, although their eyes, peering out of the walls, are photorealistic. Many of the illustrations look as though they have been sketched straight onto handmade paper, while others look as though they have been digitally altered. You could spend hours just taking in each intricate image.

While this bizarre tale is certainly one worth reading, it's the artwork that really carries the book.

I just love the piggy puppet!!!!

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## Valerie says

A Summary/A Thoughtful Review:

This dark and suspenseful picture book, more appropriate for an older audience of upper elementary to middle school-aged readers, will appeal to those looking for an eerier side of fantasy. Neil Gaimen writes a thrilling story about a anxious, yet curious girl, Lucy, who believes there are wolves living in the walls of her house. As her father, mother, and brother continue to deny the reality of this situation, Lucy, on the other hand, continues to hear "sneaking, creeping, crumpling noises...howling and yowling, a bumping and a thumping..." from inside the walls of her house, but confides and finds comfort in her stuffed animal, pig-puppet. Her fear builds up until one night, "the wolves came out of the walls." The family flees with fear out of the house, to their garden at the bottom of the hill as the wolves take over their house. As the family thinks of other locations to live (places without any walls), Lucy faces her greatest fear by returning to the house to rescue pig-puppet. In the end, there is a creative turn of events which causes the wolves to flee, instead. Although the idea of "wolves in the walls" is quite fanciful, the central idea behind this text: fear, and the act

of facing that fear, is a solid one, one to which readers can grasp on to. Gaimen's combination of two and three-dimensional illustrations, mixed with a collage of real-world items, also creates an image of reality within this fantasy world. This definitely was a pleasant surprise!

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