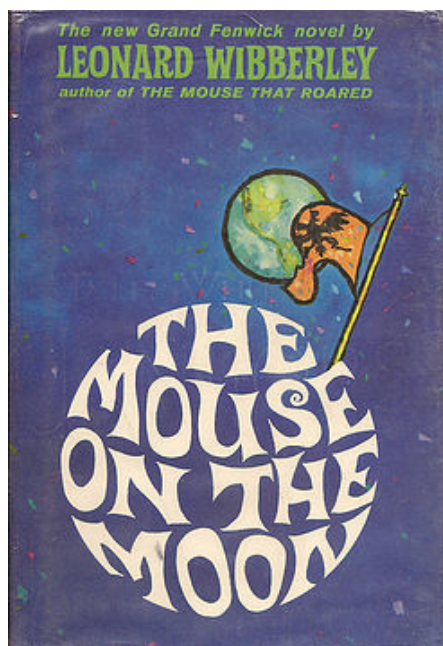




The Mouse on the Moon

Leonard Wibberley

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The Mouse on the Moon Leonard Wibberley

Spurred by the Count of Mountjoy, who wants proper plumbing for the kingdom and a Russian sable coat for Her Grace, and by Dr. Kokintz, who sees a potential new source of energy by mixing iron filings and Fenwick Pinot wine, a loan from the U.S. is arranged. A rocket is fired and Grand Fenwick lands on the moon before American and Russian astronauts.

The Mouse on the Moon Details

Date : Published 1962 by William Morrow & Company

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Author : Leonard Wibberley

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Genre : Humor, Fiction, Science Fiction, Politics



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From Reader Review The Mouse on the Moon for online ebook

Thom Swennes says

As a sequel to The Mouse that Roared, it gives the reader a look at the space race from another perspective. It doesn't match the first one for humor but remains a good read.

Megan says

Clever and funny

Stevyn Colgan says

Excellent read. Always love dthe film - the book is even better. It helps that I'm in my fifties; I suspect that some of the political satire could be lost on much younger readers. But loved it :)

An Odd1 says

May 1968. Dr Kokintz 64, world's best physicist, finds new element from wine "Pinot Grand Fenwick -- Premier Cru" only from best-tasting years, "64 is the atomic number" p 84. With a few iron filings, a bottle is powered silently through atmosphere. To send a second-hand Saturn rocket shell holding Dr K and Tully Bascombe, consort of Queen Gloriana to the moon and back "all that would be needed would be a hundred pounds of iron filings and a hogshead of wine" p 91.

Eminent diplomat Count Mountjoy asks U.S. for \$5M moon loan, really to fix plumbing, pipe hot and cold, plus \$50K fur coat for Gloriana, and old Saturn shell. U.S. Secretary of State generously applies \$50M *grant*. (view spoiler) After seal coat and other activists have fought, issue seems dated, belongs to years of Marilyn Monroe films. Dr K occupies self "vigorous correspondence" p 105 over unusual pair of bobolinks nesting in Fenwick forest.

Typo:

p 17 cockscrew is corkscrew

Annie Kate says

Funny, satirical read aloud for teens.

Gleb Bazilevsky says

I am a huge fan of the Mouse that Roared and was very happy to read this sequel, which was as playful and

poignant as the first. Thank you to my friend Ben for this present!

Anita says

The tiny Duchy has entered the space race with hilarious results.

Ann aka Iftcan says

This is the second of the "Mouse" books, following The Mouse that Roared. A charming, light-hearted book, that has humour, romance and a dash of sci-fi.

I have read this book before--but for a challenge I had to re-read it, so decided to set the date read to today and to write this little review.

Jonathan Palfrey says

Writing a sequel to The Mouse That Roared was a tough proposition. Although readers would naturally like to hear more of Grand Fenwick and its people, the original book seemed designed to stand alone, and it must have been hard to find a suitable story for a sequel.

The story that Wibberley came up with for this volume is even less credible than the original, and the telling of it somewhat less charming. But it is an adequate sequel that still makes a pleasant read, if you can suspend your disbelief. Unfortunately we don't see a lot of the people of Grand Fenwick this time, with the exception of Mountjoy and Kokintz; Tully rarely appears, and Gloriana appears mostly in her official capacity. No bowmen go into action.

Travis says

Not my favorite of the 'Mouse' series. Still full of wit and clever ideas about world events, but the space program stuff seems a bit too science fiction for this political satire series.

Vikas Datta says

Even better... couldn't be a better account of the egos behind the space race (and no better evocation of interstellar pollution)

Maria Elisabeth says

a hilarious bit of fun and satire

Timothy Rodgers says

Wonderful light read with some insight on humans.

Tommy Verhaegen says

Een gezellige voortzetting van de wereldhit "De muis die brulde". Dezelfde karakter die we ondertussen al redelijk goed kennen spelen opnieuw mee al komen er enkele andere spelers op de voorgrond. Opnieuw geen schollende gebeurtenissen maar een soort onderkoelde manier van vertellen. Een reis naar de maan is toch geen klein bier maar dat wordt op erg grappige manier een veel kleiner plaatsje gegeven dan een bontjas, een warm bad of een paar verdwaalde vogels.

Natuurlijk gaat het hertogdom opnieuw, ongewild, maar dit keer niet letterlijk, de strijd aan met de grootmachten van deze wereld. Altijd postief, vaak grappig en soms ronduit hilarisch en vol dubbele bodems. Opnieuw een topper.

Manny says

[(though my understanding is that the spacecraft will not be powered by Luxembourg's unique Grand Cru vintage...)] (hide spoiler)]

Alice says

Cold War race to the Moon derailed

What a delight that this very funny, hard to find series is now available on kindle. In this second book Count Montjoy is trying desperately to get funds to install plumbing, and improve roads in the Duchy of Grand Fenwick. In addition the young Duchess Gloriana has asked for a Russian sable fur coat. The Count is in despair as there are virtually no funds to cover these unusual expenditures and the opposition party is against all change and any new taxes. What to do? Ask the U.S.A. for a 5 million dollar loan for the Grand Fenwick Space Program seems reasonable. Of course nothing will go as planned, and the mouse will be heading for the moon with the 50 million dollars the U.S.A. insists on sending as a gift instead. Hilarious. The Cold War rises again.

Raymond says

(originally published at: <http://randoymwords.blogspot.com>)

Way back in the summer of 1990, I picked up a box of vintage 1950s paperbacks from an elderly couple having a garage sale. Mixed in with the Richard Nixon and Vance Packard was a skinny humor book called *The Mouse That Roared*. The next school year I would be amused to discover the senior class putting on the play version as a response to the Iraq war. Because that's what English departments do.

Not that I blame them. I think most of us at that age were horrified to watch the U.S. armed forces getting involved in a local dispute over oil prices. It seemed like a plot from a farcical novel.

And so *The Mouse That Roared*, in which the tiny Duchy of Grand Fenwick declares war on the United States over wine exports. Of course, they don't expect to win such a war, but look forward to gaining foreign aid after being defeated in "battle." Hi-jinks ensue, as they will.

Not quite what happened in the 1990s, but still politically valid and funny. The "end" of the cold war was still ongoing, after all. The narrative of competition was still going strong. Perhaps that's why the sequel works for me after all these years, also.

In *The Mouse On The Moon*, the prime minister puts in a request for a loan to the United States, couched in a language to insinuate that the Duchy of Fenwick wants to take up the U.S.'s spirit of international corporation and start a space program. Really, the goal is to modernize the small country over the head of the opposition leadership. And buy the Duchess a fur coat.

"Mr. Bentner, representing, as has been noted, the workingmen of Grand Fenwick, was by the curious alchemy of politics a radical conservative. Although the word 'conservative' to him was an expression close to poisonous, and although he regarded himself as a progressive socialist, the fact was that in the interests of the workingman, he opposed all change in the Duchy."

Wibberley's spot-on parody of dialectic politics is probably even more relevant today, in our time of having a "liberal" yet fiscally conservative President opposed by "conservatives" who want to do away with long-existing government programs.

Anyway, the U.S. decides to give the small country \$50 million dollars in aid, not expecting any actual rockets to appear, but to embarrass the Soviet Union in front of the world. Not that the rest of the world actually cares:

"Prior to the announcement there had been an open discussion of the problem of internationalizing space exploration -- to the utter befuddlement of some of the representatives of some of the younger nations. These, sent at enormous expense to New York from remote parts of Equatorial Africa, each nursing some acute problem concerning its claim to a gold mine or a section of a muddy river, or a thousand square miles of jungle into which few but pygmies had ever penetrated, found the great nations of the world at loggerheads over who should own the moon."

Needless to say, Fenwick actually succeeds in coming up with a ship that can travel to the moon. The technology is based on a mythical radio-active element that occurs within certain types of the native Pinot Noir. The idea of cheap, wine-based rocket fuel is a bit of silliness, but the author actually has done a lot of research into space travel and manages to justify some of the ridiculous aspects. And make fun of the

U.S./Russia competition for getting to the moon using as much speed and power as possible.

"We're in no hurry and a great increase in speed brings a huge number of problems...heat, for instance. The outer shell of the rocket would get heated up to such a degree that it might vaporize. Then there are meteorites which are microscopic in size...We'll just chug along at a nice, steady thousand miles an hour.."

This is a quick, one-day read; a good plane trip book, perhaps. Because of its shortness, there is a bit of jumping around. Rather than having segues, the reader is expected to keep up with little jumps in the plot as each chapter tends to concentrate on one pair of characters at a time. But this is more of a stylistic tic of 1960s humor writing than a failure of the writer. Also, if you are a fan of vintage paperback covers, this series features some art by illustrator Robert Bugg. So, go ahead, take a break and laugh at the world for a bit. While we still have it.

As they stood looking toward this appalling horizon which, though so distant, seemed near enough to touch, earth raised herself over the lunar desolation -- a lovely huge blue liquid jewel, hung in a sky of sable. The sight was so entrancing that neither of them could speak. It was magnificent beyond anything they had ever seen, and the light which earth now gave to the moon was not the harsh, blinding light of the burning sun, but a gentle bluish light, consoling as a benediction, taking the savagery out of the terrible craters and fissures and mountains of the moon and investing them with a softness that made them almost lovely in turn. 'I never knew it was so beautiful, said Vincent at last. 'It is lovely beyond everything else in all the heavens.'

'It is our home,' said Dr. Kokintz simply and sadly.'

Erik Graff says

I read this sequel to The Mouse That Roared because I had liked the film and the book, which I read afterwards. The Mouse on the Moon, however, was taking the joke too far for me. I didn't proceed to the other two sequels.

Mattaniah Gibson says

Wibberly delivers once again in his sequel to "The Mouse That Roared". Fun story, once again a wonderful balance of comedy and story. It's sad that the only movie version of this sequel completely lost the spirit of the book.

James says

Second book in the Mouse series, not nearly as good as the prequel (**The Mouse that Roared**) nor the

sequel (**The Mouse on Wall Street**).

The book covers Grand Fenwick's attempts to win the "space race" between the USA and USSR (and now Grand Fenwick). Unfortunately for the reader, Wibberley has entirely removed characters from the continuity stream, merged some together, or changed the nature of some characters: the destroying of Tully Bascomb's character in particular was frustrating. A good read for youths, although it will likely feel dated now, it doesn't offer too much for the more intellectually minded.
