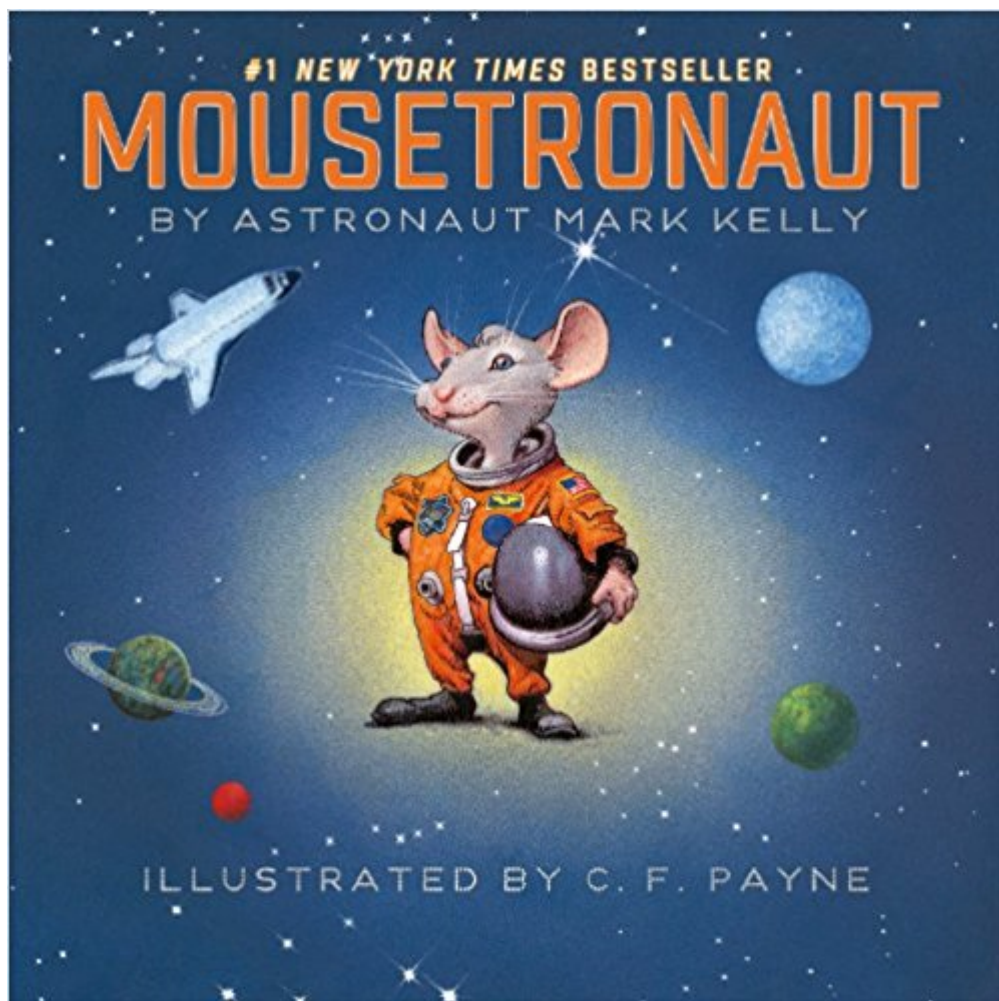


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# Mousetronaut: Based On A (Partially) True Story (Paula Wiseman Books)



## Synopsis

>Astronaut Mark Kelly flew with a mouse-tronauts • on his first spaceflight aboard space shuttle Endeavour in 2001. Mousetronaut tells the story of a small mouse that wants nothing more than to travel to outer space. The little mouse works as hard as the bigger mice to show readiness for the mission . . . and is chosen for the flight! While in space, the astronauts are busy with their mission when disaster strikesâ”and only the smallest member of the crew can save the day. With lively illustrations by award-winning artist C. F. Payne, Mousetronaut is a charming tale of perseverance, courage, and the importance of the small!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Series: Paula Wiseman Books

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books; First Edition edition (October 9, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442458240

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 152 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,372 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #59 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #341 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2-In this picture book based on the space shuttle Endeavor, mice are being trained alongside human astronauts and selected to accompany the 2001 mission. Meteor is one of the smallest mice, but the most hardworking. After the suspenseful liftoff, an irreplaceable key gets stuck between control panels, and he hurls into action to save the mission. The concise, energetic writing works in tandem with the highly detailed and expressive, softly crosshatched cartoon art. The tone of the story is celebratory, but also gives an authentic glimpse into daily life on a space shuttle.

Close-ups of characters reveal humorous surprise or just pure glee. The astronauts dub Meteor with the title "Mousetronaut" due to his bravery and service. Librarians will want to share the inspiration for this tale included in the afterword, an informative essay on man's quest to overcome gravity and fly. Apparently, during the duration of the flight, only one of the 18 mice onboard the Endeavor playfully and contentedly floated in zero gravity. The rest clung to the cage. The values of being small, useful, solving problems, and working hard-as opposed to being big and strong-will inspire young readers. The bibliography is outstanding as is the kid-friendly list of Internet sources featuring sites with games and videos.-Sara Lissa Paulson, American Sign Language and English Lower School, New York City (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Diminutive size proves to be an advantage on a shuttle mission. Meteor the mouse would dearly love to join the shuttle crew, but all the other mice know he's too small. The human shuttle commander has his eye on Meteor, though, and seeing his motivation, chooses him for one of the six mouse spots. Meteor is such a natural in zero gravity, he's allowed out of the cage, aka the Mouse Hotel. The human astronauts are busy on spacewalks and conducting experiments, but there's not much for Meteor to do. When the key to the control panel becomes stuck in a tight spot, the commander says, "This isn't good." Human fingers are too thick, but Meteor saves the day. Kelly, a retired astronaut, puts his expertise to work, naturally sliding the tiniest details of life on a shuttle into his story. Even in space, astronauts answer email; it goes without saying that at least one of the astronauts is a woman; and who knew you needed keys on a space shuttle? (Probably appropriately, the exact role of the mice on the mission is never explored.) Payne has a good time with his illustrations, investing little Meteor with a suitably outsized personality and making his multicultural human shuttle crew look normal as normal can be like Meteor, maybe child readers can become astronauts, too. This little mouse may well inspire some big dreams. (afterword, further reading) (Picture book. 3-6) Kirkus, September 15, 2012 (Kirkus) In this picture book based on the space shuttle Endeavor, mice are being trained alongside human astronauts and selected to accompany the 2001 mission. Meteor is one of the smallest mice, but the most hardworking. After the suspenseful liftoff, an irreplaceable key gets stuck between control panels, and he hurls into action to save the mission. The concise, energetic writing works in tandem with the highly detailed and expressive, softly crosshatched cartoon art. The tone of the story is celebratory, but also gives an authentic glimpse into daily life on a space shuttle. Close-ups of characters reveal humorous surprise or just pure glee. The astronauts dub Meteor with the title "Mousetronaut" •

due to his bravery and service. Librarians will want to share the inspiration for this tale included in the afterword, an informative essay on manâ€™s quest to overcome gravity and fly. Apparently, during the duration of the flight, only one of the 18 mice onboard the Endeavor playfully and contentedly floated in zero gravity. The rest clung to the cage. The values of being small, useful, solving problems, and working hard “as opposed to being big and strong” will inspire young readers. The bibliography is outstanding as is the kid-friendly list of Internet sources featuring sites with games and videos. (School Library Journal)

In an afterword, former astronaut Kelly (who is also the husband of Gabrielle Giffords) recalls that on his first Endeavor flight, the research mice on board would have nothing to do with weightlessness and clung to the mesh of their cage for the entire mission “except one, a smaller than the rest, [who] seemed to enjoy the experience and effortlessly floated around the cage.”

Inspired by this real-life mouse, Kelly’s first children’s book tells the story of Meteor, a lightly anthropomorphized rodent who turns his tininess into an advantage when an important key gets stuck in a crack between two monitors. The understated, quietly intense prose (“This isn’t good,” says the commander. “We need that key back.”) is just right for the particular breed of hero that is the American astronaut, and the narrative stakes are just high enough for the younger end of the target audience. Payne (Hide-and-Squeak) contributes muscular, handsomely textured images and vivid portraits that make it absolutely clear that space travel is a larger-than-life adventure. Ages 4–8. (Publishers Weekly)

Here the mouse is headed in the opposite direction. This first children’s book by Kelly, a retired astronaut and husband of former Representative Gabrielle Giffords, builds on his experience with real mice aboard the space shuttle Endeavour. Eighteen of them. In this winning story there are six, and as the smallest one, Meteor gets to perform his own special mission. After helping the astronauts out of a potential Apollo 13 calamity, Meteor is declared a hero “sure to please many fellow pipsqueaks back on Earth. (The New York Times Book Review)

Bought this book as part of my son’s Christmas. He’s five, wants to be an astronaut when he grows up, and loves all things space. The story is super cute and opened up discussions about how real mice were used by NASA and other space training programs. My son has asked me to re-read this story several times since he received it. Will definitely be buying Mousetronaut Goes to Mars in the near future.

A very cute story with great pictures. Another great addition to our collection of science and space books. Always nice to have some fiction books about space to mix in with the nonfiction and keep

children excited about learning. Great quality book and the price was fantastic. Wide range of ages so this book will be enjoyed for years to come. Satisfied with this purchase.

Great book with a great message - You are never too small, too young, etc to be helpful and have purpose! I love that it was written by an astronaut and that he got the idea for his book when he observed the mice on his real space mission. Mouse's name is Meteor - loved it! Great illustrations! Facts in the back teach kids how animals were used in space. I read this aloud to elementary students grades 1-5 . They all enjoyed it and had great "I wonder" questions about our space program!

My nephew loved this book it was cute and well written I am going to get him the Mars one next. I gave it to him as part of a space themed gift and it was a hit, I think he made me read it like 3x that night. I am so happy they make kids' books like this it really instills a sense of magic for a little one.

My 3-year old daughter loves Mousetronaut. She got it for christmas after we visited KSC in Florida. The story is very well written with the little mouse going from underdog to the hero, she loves that. I don't particularly like the style of illustration (the mouse itself is supercute but humans look kinda weird) but that is just personal preference. The book is of good quality and should survive handling by small children (we got the hardcover).The afterword provides some more background for the parents (or older children), which is a nice touch.

Great story! Quick easy bed time read. I thought it was cool that an actual astronaut wrote it.

As an adult, I really like the art. I like the expressiveness of the faces, and I think my daughter picks up on that and enjoys it as well. The pacing is enjoyable for a two-and-a-half-year old, not too much text but not too little per page. If my daughter has any complaint, it is that she's used to the phrase "blast off", not "lift off", and always corrects me if I read the words directly. In any case, she took to the book right away and it continues to be a top request most nights.I keep meaning to look up the images of the actual astronauts on the flight the author mentions, to see if they are the actual models of the people in the book.

Brand new book! After searching for Mark Kelly's book for an autograph session - 's pricing is hard

to beat!

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