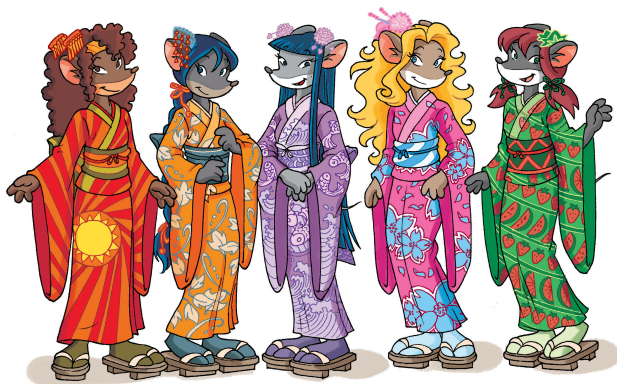


Geronimo Stilton

Thea Stilton

AND THE
**CHERRY BLOSSOM
ADVENTURE**



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ISBN 978-0-545-22772-8

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Based on an idea by Elisabetta Dami.

www.geronimostilton.com

Published by Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

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Original title *Il Mistero della Bambola Nera*

Cover by Arianna Rea, Paolo Ferrante, and Ketty Formaggio

Illustrations by Alessandro Battan, Elisa Falcone, Claudia Forcelloni,

Michela Frare, Daniela Geremia, Roberta Pierpaoli, Arianna Rea,

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Color by Tania Boccalini, Alessandra Bracaglia, Ketty Formaggio,

Elena Sanjust, and Micaela Tangorra

Graphics by Paola Cantoni

Special thanks to Beth Dunfey

Translated by Julia Heim

Interior design by Kay Petronio

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

11 12 13 14 15 16/0

Printed in the U.S.A.

23

First printing, March 2011



A SPECIAL GIFT

It was a hot midsummer day. It was gorgeous outside, but I was trapped inside my mouse hole, scampering back and FORTH like a rat in a maze. I was waiting for a very **important** package, and the mailmouse was late!

You see, I am a special correspondent for *The Rodent's Gazette*. I'm always traveling for work, and I'm ready to leave for a new





ADVENTURE at the drop of a cheese slice. Waiting has never been my strong suit!

After what seemed like an eternity, Mercury Whale, the mailmouse from Whale Island, finally arrived. He always

brings me news from my dear friends, the **THEA SISTERS**. A few months ago, I was invited back to my alma mater, Mouseford Academy, to teach a course in adventure journalism.

That's how I met **Colette**, **Nicky**, **PAMELA**, **PAULINA**, and **Violet** — they were my students. After we solved a mystery together, the five mouselets decided to call themselves the **THEA SISTERS** in honor of our friendship. I am very proud of them!

Before Mercury even had a chance to **ring** the bell, I rushed to the door and threw it



open. “Finally!” I exclaimed, **beaming**.

The poor rodent almost **JUMPED** out of his fur. He stammered, “M-Miss Thea, I came to give you this —”

“Package, yes, yes, I know!” I interrupted **impatiently**.

Mercury seemed stunned. “Uh . . . yes, but surely you don’t know that it comes from —”

“From **JAPAN!**” I said, **CUTTING** him off. “And I know just what’s inside. . . .”





Japan is a country made up of many islands — some large and others very small — arranged in an arc east of the Asian continent.

Tokyo is the capital of Japan and is on the largest island of the archipelago. A good 13 million of Japan's 127 million inhabitants live there! Japan is rich with natural marvels, like forests, mountains, lakes, and volcanoes. The country is divided into eight regions, as shown on the map above.



In fact, *Colette*, *Nicky*, PAMELA, PAULINA, and Violet had already alerted me to the fact that a special gift would be arriving. They were all waiting for me at a big summer FESTIVAL in Japan! It'd been so long since I'd seen those five mouselets, I was more impatient than a cat with a mouse in its claws. I said a QUICK good-bye to Mercury, grabbed my suitcase, and scurried off to the airport.

But what was inside the package, you ask? Well, if you want to find out, you'll have to keep reading!

It all started with a special student exchange organized by **MOUSEFORD ACADEMY**

