

Geronimo Stilton

CREPELLA VON CACKLEFUR

RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE



Scholastic Inc.

New York Toronto London Auckland
Sydney Mexico City New Delhi Hong Kong

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the copyright holder. For information regarding permission, please contact: Atlantyca S.p.A., Via Leopardi 8, 20123 Milan, Italy; e-mail foreignrights@atlantyca.it, www.atlantyca.com.

ISBN 978-0-545-39348-5

Copyright © 2011 by Edizioni Piemme S.p.A., Via Tiziano 32, 20145 Milan, Italy.

International Rights © Atlantyca S.p.A.

English translation © 2012 by Atlantyca S.p.A.

GERONIMO STILTON names, characters, and related indicia are copyright, trademark, and exclusive license of Atlantyca S.p.A. All rights reserved. The moral right of the author has been asserted.

Based on an original idea by Elisabetta Dami.

www.geronimostilton.com

Published by Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

Stilton is the name of a famous English cheese. It is a registered trademark of the Stilton Cheese Makers' Association. For more information, go to www.stiltoncheese.com.

Text by Geronimo Stilton

Original title *Un vampiro da salvare!*

Cover by Giuseppe Ferrario (pencils and inks) and

Giulia Zaffaroni (color)

Illustrations by Ivan Bigarella (pencils and inks) and

Daria Cerchi (color)

Graphics by Yuko Egusa

Special thanks to Tracey West

Translated by Lidia Morson Tramontozzi

Interior design by Elizabeth Frances Herzog

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

12 13 14 15 16 17/0

Printed in the U.S.A.

40

First printing, August 2012



AN EERIE E-MAIL

I hurried home after a long day at work. I was so tired that my whiskers were **DROOPING**. All I wanted to do was relax in my favorite **comfy** chair.

Don't get me wrong — I wasn't planning on **STARING** at the walls all night. I had brought home some work to do. But I wanted to do it calmly, in peace and quiet. No **ringing** phones. No doors **slamming**. And no coworkers yelling at one another!

Sorry, I haven't introduced myself. My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*. I'm the publisher of *The Rodent's Gazette*, the most **FAMOUSE** newspaper on Mouse Island.

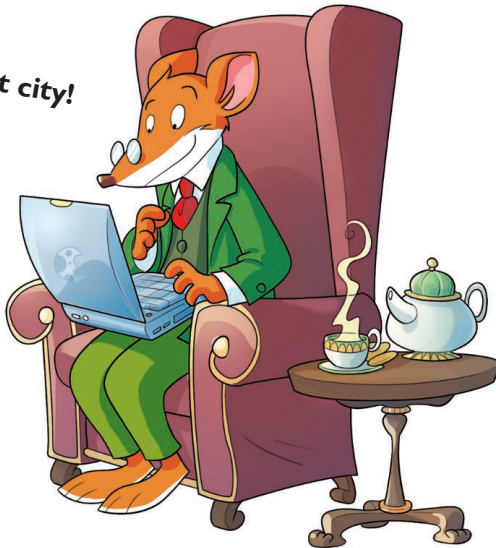


It was already late and I was as tired as a rat being chased by a cat. But I really wanted to write a nice article about the city I live in.

I **love** my city!

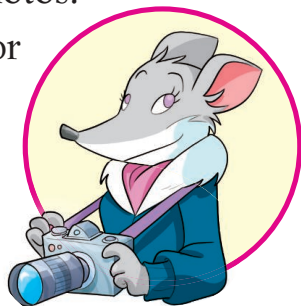
I turned on my laptop and looked at **PHOTOS** of all the places, buildings, and statues that make **New Mouse City** a **FANTASTIC** place to live.

What a great city!





My sister, Thea, took all the photos. She's a special correspondent for the newspaper. I checked out **PHOTOS** of the port, City Hall, Singing Stone Square, the Statue of Limburger . . . and then I yawned. I was so **sleepy!**





I looked at the  **clock**. It was ten fifteen!

“Time to hit the sack!” I exclaimed, ***stretching***.

As I put on my pajamas, I remembered something — I hadn’t checked my e-mail in hours. So I typed in my password and saw a new message **pop** up on my screen.

It was from my friend **CREPELLA VON CACKLEFUR!** I turned as **PALE** as a slice of Swiss cheese. There is absolutely nothing relaxing about **CREPELLA.**

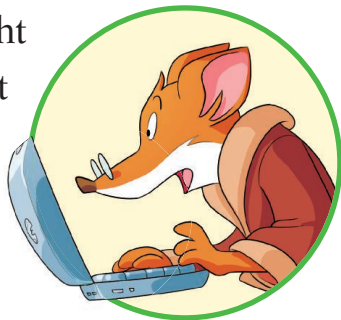
The e-mail read:





There was a file attached. It was Creepella's latest novel. You might know that she lives in **Mysterious Valley**. All her books are about **CREEPY** creatures, like vampires, mummies, and monsters. They are **thrilling, chilling** tales!

My tail **twitched** in fright before I even read the first word. But I was very curious, so I opened the file. Then I read the book all the way through, and it was so good



that I couldn't stop thinking about it! Soon the rays of the cheddar-**yellow** sun were peeking through my window.

"What a **STRANGE** story," I whispered.

Then the doorbell rang. I was **GROGGY** from not sleeping, and I stumbled to the door and opened it.



“Good morning, Uncle Geronimo. Are you ready yet?” It was **BENJAMIN**, my favorite nephew, with his friend **Bugsy Wugsy**. I had promised to have breakfast with them!

“**HOLEY CHEESE!**

I’m late. Give me a second,” I called as I ran into my room. I dressed so quickly that my heart was **pounding** like I was a mouse caught in a trap.



When I was done, I found Benjamin and Bugsy Wugsy looking at Creepella’s story. They read it in no time.

“It’s a strange story . . . but awesome!” they exclaimed.

“Do you **REALLY** think so?” I asked, straightening my tie.



“Absolutely!” Bugsy Wugsy replied.

“You have to publish it **IMMEDIATELY**,
Uncle Geronimo!” Benjamin added.

I decided to take their advice. So I present
to you now the **amazing**, breathtaking
new story by Creepella von Cacklefur!

It’s called:

THE RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE.

I hope you’ll like it as much as Benjamin and
Bugsy Wugsy did.



By the way, we went out for **BREAKFAST** that morning.

“What would you like?” asked the waitress.

We didn’t think about it twice. We looked at one another. Then we all said our orders at the same time.

**“A GLASS OF
TOMATO JUICE!”**