

Dulce Rodrigues



ONCE UPON A TIME... A HOUSE



A Tale for Children and All Those Young at Heart



Honorable Mention recipient,
2013 Hollywood Book Festival

ONCE UPON A TIME... A HOUSE

Dulce Rodrigues

Once Upon a Time . . . A House

A Tale for Children and All Those Young at Heart



Strategic Book Publishing and Rights Co.

Copyright © 2013

All rights reserved by Dulce Rodrigues.

Personal website : www.dulcerodrigues.info

Kids' website : www.barry4kids.net

Illustrations : Cristian Polocoser

First published in French by Editions Persée Paris, France, in 2009

Book Design/Layout by Kalpart. Visit www.kalpart.com

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the permission, in writing, from the publisher.

Strategic Book Publishing and Rights Co.

12620 FM 1960, Suite A4-507

Houston, TX 77065

www.sbpra.com

ISBN: 978-1-60976-766-2



ONCE UPON A TIME, somewhere in the middle of nowhere, there was a house that felt very lonely and lost. It had been long forgotten by everybody! Very nice people had once lived there, but they had left years ago. And nobody else had come to stay since their departure. The silence had settled down and become unbearable for the house!

The flowerbeds had once been beautiful, colorful flowers had bloomed everywhere, and the little vegetable garden had sprouted all kinds of vegetables; now, weeds invaded everywhere. The small pond in the yard had once abounded with small goldfish; now the water was dirty and with no fish at all. The attic had once been full of hay; now there was only emptiness. Cows used to moo happily in cowsheds until someone came to milk them; hens used to cackle in the henhouse to announce they had laid their eggs; and the rooster used to sing in the morning to wake everybody up. Now there was only silence and sadness. The house had tears in its eyes every time it looked outside its windows.

But, one day, a miracle occurred: the house suddenly heard a noise, sweet as a light breeze. Somebody had just arrived!

It was Mrs Spider, and she had come to settle down. She had tracked down the place and considered it the ideal environment for her family. And so she began to weave a web at once. If other spiders appeared, she would claim her rights of property. The first to arrive are always the best served!

And it's a good thing she moved in when she did because...



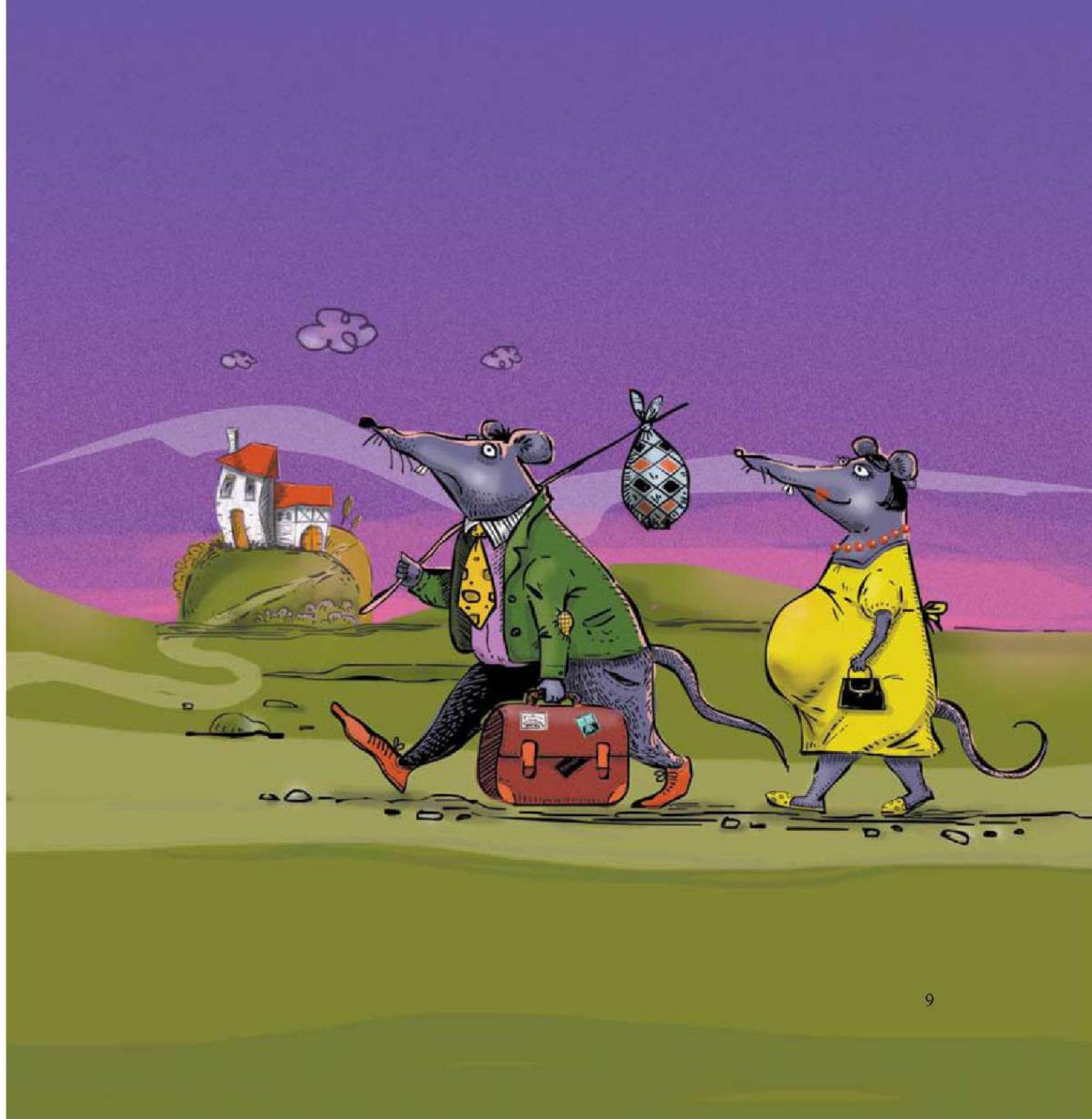
A few days later, Mrs. Mouse arrived in her turn. She walked slowly, her big belly weighing down heavily with baby mice ready to be born very soon. Fortunately, her husband was there to help move all of their belongings!

The house was really beautiful. There were holes everywhere inside of the walls—just the right size for mice. And—*great news!*—some of the holes communicated with the outside, allowing the young mice to go to play outdoors without any problems.

Mrs. Mouse could not be happier; she would have never found such a paradise somewhere else! With the help of Mr. Mouse, she began to fix up the place to their liking. Everything had to be ready in time for the birth of the baby mice.

There was just a problem: Mr. and Mrs. Mouse had to stock up on provisions, especially before winter comes. During the cold winter months, it is always very difficult to find anything to eat. So it was necessary to find food fast. In other words, they had to go search inside the garbage cans for food scraps, especially bits of cheese. All mice are crazy about cheese!

Mr. Mouse took charge of this task, and soon every corner in the house smelled the cheese—which was not very pleasant. It had always been a very clean house!



It's true that since its last owners had left, the house had not been cleaned at all. But now the stink of cheese... Nevertheless the house resigned itself to that bad smell and eventually got used to it. It was so happy to have new tenants again!

Time passed, Mrs. Mouse led a happy life surrounded with her twelve young mice and the gallant Mr. Mouse. Cobwebs had also multiplied and hung from all the ceiling corners, thanks to Mrs. Spider. And soon, even the house became accustomed to the unpleasant smell of cheese everywhere.

One day, rain suddenly began to pour from the skies. It rained very hard. The wind whistled and blew with such violence that everybody became afraid. Even the house trembled. Then, the wind calmed down, the rain stopped, and tranquility reigned again.

But, not for long!



About the Author

Portuguese in her heart and by nationality, Dulce Rodrigues nevertheless adopted Europe as her “home”—a natural choice after a professional career that took her to various European cities and countries. She now spends her life either travelling or among books; writing for children is, for her, a rewarding challenge and a most enjoyable personal achievement.

Short after the publication of her first children’s book, Dulce Rodrigues created the children’s project www.barry4kids.net that opened the way to collaborations in different European countries—namely France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and even Romania.

Dulce Rodrigues followed university courses in the field of science, as well as languages and literatures, and she was awarded two scholarships. She speaks six living languages and writes regularly in at least three of them.

A few of her children’s stories were awarded literary prizes in France at European-level contests. She has books published in multiple countries. In addition, performances of her children’s plays have taken place in Romania, Luxembourg, and Portugal.

Books by the Author

Children's Books

Era uma vez uma Casa, 2011

Le Ciel est en Fête, 2011

Há Festa no Céu, 2011

Piloto und Lassie, Romeo und Julia einmal tierisch anders, 2011

Der Weihnachtsmann ist verschnupft, 2010

Piloto e Lassie, uma outra estória de Romeu e Julieta, 2010

Father Christmas has the Flu, 2010

Barry's Adventure, 2010

Il était une fois... une Maison, 2009

Le Père Noël est enrhumé / O Pai Natal está constipado (bilingual), 2008

Le Théâtre des Animaux, 2008

A Aventura do Barry (CD—Rom), 2001

L'Aventure de Barry, 1999

Children's Play Scripts (available in English)

The Miracle of Saint Nicholas (Christmas)

The Little Ladybird

Other Books

Travelogue—Egypt through the Eyes of a Western Woman

Somewhere in the middle of nowhere, lonely and forgotten by everybody, a House has one day the joy of seeing different guests come, one by one with the seasons, to build a new life: Mrs. Spider, Mr. and Mrs. Mouse, Mrs. Duck and her ducklings, the big gray and white Cat, the Ewe, even the Ants and the Bees... all of this little community shares the same place and lives peacefully together.

Until one day this agreeable quietude is disturbed by the arrival of Man and his faithful friend, the Dog! What lesson must Man learn in order to become less selfish and more respectful of nature? A bitter lesson!

Once Upon a Time... a House received Honorable Mention at the 2013 Hollywood Book Festival. It is the English version of the children's bestselling book *Il Était une Fois une Maison*, which was awarded a literary prize in France.

Dulce Rodrigues has authored six children's books and a travelogue about Egypt. Born and raised in Lisbon, Portugal, she received a scholarship to study at the Goethe-Institut in Germany, and one for a scientific course with the Open University in the UK, and wound up living in many different countries around Europe. Now retired after a career that included working for NATO and as a translator for the U.S. Military, she currently lives in Belgium, where in addition to writing she enjoys traveling, gardening, and arts in general. Please visit her at www.dulcerodrigues.info or at www.barry4kids.net.



Strategic Book Publishing and Rights Co.

Publisher's website:
<http://sbpra.com/DulceRodrigues>



978-1-60976-766-2

Price: US \$18.95