



Mortimer: Rat Race to Space **A Middle Grade Novel by Joan Marie Galat**

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Ages: 9+

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Joan Marie Galat turns her pre-occupation with astronomy and space to fiction in this entertaining and informative read.

Mortimer T. Flightdeck and future Youtube sensation has big plans for rat kind.

A spot on the International Space Station (ISS) has opened up, and Mortimer, the journal-keeping lab rat, is not about to miss his chance to become an intergalactic space rat. And that's just the first step in his master scheme to prove that rats are much better suited than humans when it comes to colonizing Mars.

Mortimer sets out to expose the impracticality of human astronauts by conducting experiments and recording the evidence for YouTube. As far as he's concerned, pellet-eating rats are much easier to feed than fussy humans, and just think of all the unwashed underthings floating around the galaxy – especially when compared to the versatile rat tail!

But when Mortimer's schemes go awry, he is forced to face new truths about dreams, friendship, and choosing the right thing to do. Maybe not everything is a rat race.

The Author

Joan Marie Galat is an award-winning author of more than twenty books for children and adults, with translations in seven languages. She is best known for her science books for children, specifically her astronomy titles and interest in everything outer space. Her books have won and been nominated for numerous awards, including the Moonbeam Children's Book, Crystal Kite, Skipping Stones, Rocky Mountain Book, Red Cedar Book, and Hackmatack awards, among others. She is the 2018 recipient of the Martha Weston Grant, awarded annually to one member (worldwide) of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Galat lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Reviews:

"Mortimer's story is a ridiculous tale filled with rat puns, pranks, and a whole lot of fun. Readers who have a love of space will find well-researched facts spread throughout the story in a way that is informative but not overwhelming. It's clear that Galat has a love for space and science, and she shares that love with her readers through Mortimer's adventures."

– *CM: Canadian Review of Materials*



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