Text of *The Mouse in the Museum* (2024), by Maggie Colangelo and Dr. Bernard Means

Front Cover
- Textual elements
  - *Text narrator for title superimposed on the glass exhibit case:* The Mouse in the Museum
  - *Text narrator for words on the brass nameplate:* “Maggie Colangelo & Dr. Bernard Means”

Inside Front Cover
- Textual elements
  - *Text narrator:* The wheel of cheese is labeled “Mammoth Cheese”
  - *Mouse standing atop the mammoth wheel of cheese:* “Cheese—still proceeding from the Milky Way, is nature’s purest, plain and simple food; cheese is a lux’ry, when like this ‘tis good.”
  - *Text narrator for quote reference at the bottom of the page:* Quote excerpted from Thomas Kennedy’s poem *Ode to the Mammoth Cheese Presented to Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, by the Inhabitants of Cheshire, Massachusetts* and dated January 1, 1802.

Page 1
- Panel 2
  - Textual elements
    - *Mouse 1 speaking:* “Oh hi! Welcome to the museum!”

- Panel 3
  - Textual elements
    - *Mouse 1 speaking:* “I come from a long line of museum mice. My ancestor lived in a house with the Peale family all the way back in 1794.”

- Panel 4
  - Textual elements
    - *Text narrator:* Charles Wilson Peale was an artist and avid collector.

- Panel 5
  - Textual elements
    - *Text narrator:* In 1782, he opened some rooms of his home to the public as a museum.
    - *Mouse 2 (ancestor of Mouse 1) speaking:* “It’s feeling a little crowded…”

Pages 2 and 3
- Textual elements
  - *Text narrator: 1794*
  - *Text narrator:* The family was invited to live in a newly constructed building that housed the American Philosophical Society.
Text narrator: They had more space for their growing family and growing collection.

Mouse 2 speaking: “Moving day already?”

Mouse 3 speaking: “Hond on!”

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**Page 4**

- **Panel 1**
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator (sound): SMACK

- **Panel 5 (bleed panel)**
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator: A massive Mastodon skeleton was the museum’s pride and joy!
    - Text narrator: There was even a mouse skeleton for scale!

- **Panel 6 (a circle overlapping the right end of Panel 4)**
  - Textual elements
    - Mouse 2 speaking: “So that’s what happened to Uncle Fred…”

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**Page 5**

- **Panel 1**
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator: Sometimes she would see other animals at the Museum.

- **Panel 3**
  - Textual elements
    - George the Eagle speaks: “Is that cake?”
    - Mouse 2 speaks: “Eek!”

- **Panel 4**
  - Textual elements
    - George the Eagle speaks: “heh, heh, heh”
    - Mouse 2 speaks: “George!”

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**Page 6**

- **Panel 1**
  - Textual elements
    - Mouse 2 speaks: “So, how’re you doing?”
    - George the Eagle speaks: “Not very good.”

- **Panel 2**
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator for a sign on the cage bars: Feed me well and I’ll live a hundred years.
    - Mouse 2 speaks: “I was wondering what that sign was about.”
    - George the Eagle speaks: “Yeah”
Panel 3
- Textual elements
  - George the Eagle speaks: “I’m 15, and that’s long enough for me.”

Panel 4
- Textual elements
  - George the Eagle speaks: “My feathers are ratty, my claws ache… I’m even too old to fly like I used to!”

Panel 5
- Textual elements
  - Mouse 2 speaks: “Well, I’ll miss you when you go.”
  - George the Eagle speaks: “Aw, don’t be sad! I’ll never really leave you.”

Panel 6
- Textual elements
  - Text narrator: In the end, he was right.

Panel 7
- Textual elements
  - Text narrator: The bald eagle never left the museum’s collection.

Page 7
- Panel 1
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator: Over the years, many animals lived in the museum’s menagerie.

- Panel 2
  - Textual elements
    - Mouse 2 as narrator: But the bear scared my great-grandma the most.

- Panel 3
  - Textual elements
    - Mouse 2 as narrator: One night, he broke into the house!

- Panel 4
  - Textual elements
    - Charles Willson Peale speaks: “Get the door”
    - Text narrator (sound): SLAM.

- Panel 5
  - Textual elements
    - A young Rembrandt Peale speaks: “Oh my goodness!”
    - A young Rubens Peale speaks: “What are we going to do?”

- Panel 7
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator: The bear was quieter once he joined the permanent collection.
Mouse 2 speaking: “Spooky.”

Page 8

- Panel 1
  - Graphical elements
  - Textual elements
    - Text narrator: The first science museum in America quickly became popular.
    - Mouse 2 speaking: “Step right up”!
  - Panel 2
    - Graphical elements
    - Textual elements
      - Text narrator: They held scientific lectures.
  - Panel 3
    - Textual elements
      - Text narrator: Performed artistic demonstrations.
  - Panel 4
    - Textual elements
      - Text narrator: And added to their impressive collection.
  - Panel 5
    - Textual elements
      - Text narrator: But at the end of the day, the museum was also a home.

Page 9

- Panel 1
  - Textual elements
    - Mouse 1 speaks: “But enough about my great-grandma’s museum…. I want to show you mine!”
  - Panel 2
    - Textual elements
      - Mouse 1 speaks: “It’s not the same one that my great-grandma lived in, of course. My museum is in Baltimore, not Philadelphia.”
  - Panel 3
    - Textual elements
      - Mouse 1 speaks: “Things have changed! Humans don’t live here anymore,”
  - Panel 4
    - Textual elements
      - Mouse 1 speaks: “And there’s definitely no bears breaking in!”
  - Panel 5
    - Textual elements
      - Mouse 1 speaks: “Some things are similar. We have a mastodon, too!”
  - Panel 6
    - Textual elements
      - Mouse 1 speaks: “And it’s the best home I could ask for.”
**Pages 10 and 11 timeline**

- **Textual elements**
  - **Text narrator:**
    - **1776**
      - The Peale family moves from Maryland to Pennsylvania. Lucy and Scarborough Williams, the Peale family’s enslaved servants, accompany them with their son Moses.
    - **1782**
      - A room is added to Charles Willson Peale home so that he can display his portraits. The art gallery eventually develops into a collection with preserved insects and animals.
    - **1783**
      - After drawing mastodon bones in the portrait gallery, Charles Willson Peale is inspired to transform his gallery into a public museum.
    - **1786**
      - Charles Willson Peale announces that part of his home will be opened as a “Repository for Natural Curiosities.” Lucy and Scarborough Williams are freed. Moses Williams remains enslaved, working in the newly established Philadelphia museum.
    - **1794**
      - The Peale family moves their home and museum into a new building constructed by the American Philosophical Society.
    - **1801**
      - A mastodone skeleton is unearthed by Charles Willson Peale. It’s displayed for the first time on Christmas Eve.
    - **1802**
      - Peale’s Philadelphia Museum expands to the Pennsylvania State House, known today as Independence Hall.
    - **1810**
      - The Philadelphia Museum is completely moved into Independence Hall.
    - **1814**
      - Rembrandt Peale opens a museum in Baltimore, Maryland. Now known as The Peale, this is the first building in the United States designed and built to be a museum.
References

- **Textual elements**
  - **Text narrator:**
    - Anderson, William T., editor
    - Arlotta, C. J.
    - Chernick, Karen
    - Colangelo, Maggie and Bernard K. Means
      - 2023 *Tales from the Virtual Curation Lab No. 1.* Comic book published electronically through Virginia Commonwealth University Scholars Compass. Electronic publication: [https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/vcl_comics_pubs/3/](https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/vcl_comics_pubs/3/)
      - 2021a *Founding Monsters.* Comic book published electronically through Virginia Commonwealth University Scholars Compass. Electronic publication: [https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/founding_monsters/1/](https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/founding_monsters/1/)
      - 2021b *Founding Monsters Tales.* Comic book published electronically through Virginia Commonwealth University Scholars Compass. Electronic publication: [https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/founding_monsters/2/](https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/founding_monsters/2/)
    - Diethorn, Karie
    - Dugatkin, Lee Alan
    - Greifenstein, Charles

Sellars, Charles Coleman


Text narrator: © 2024 by Maggie Colangelo and Bernard K. Means

Author page

Textual elements:

Text narrator in a text box below the portrait of Maggie: Maggie Colangelo is a comic artist based in Richmond, Virginia. By combining art, science and history, she aims to engage, entertain and educate her audience.

Text narrator in a text box below the portrait of Dr. Means: Dr. Bernard K Means is an archaeologist who teaches in the school of world studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is also the director of the Virtual Curation Laboratory, where he leads a team of students to 3D scan and 3D print fossils, archaeological discoveries, and historical items for teaching, research, and public outreach.

Back cover

Textual elements

Text narrator: What do a killer bear, a not-so-regal eagle, and the massive bones of an extinct elephant have in common? Come learn with the museum mouse as she spins a tale of her ancestor’s life in America’s first successful public museum.