

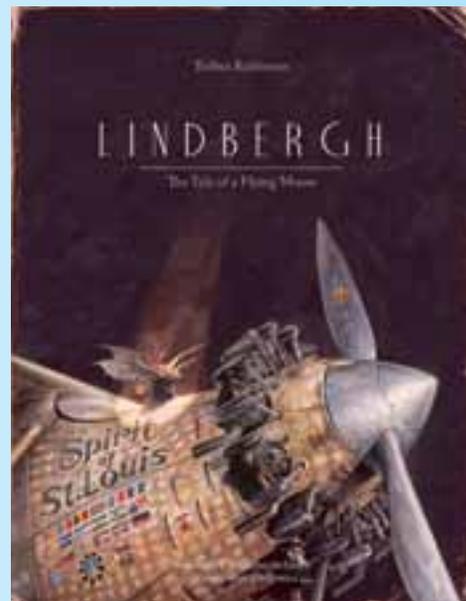
L I N D B E R G H

The Tale of a Flying Mouse

Torben Kuhlmann

These are dark times for a small mouse. A new invention—the mechanical mousetrap—has caused all the mice but one to flee to America, the land of the free. But with cats guarding the steamships, trans-Atlantic crossings are no longer safe. In the bleakest of places the one remaining mouse has a brilliant idea. He must learn to fly!

Debut illustrator Torben Kuhlmann's inventive tale and stunning illustrations will capture the imagination of readers—young and old—with the tale of this courageous young mouse.



Translated from the German
by Suzanne Levesque.
NorthSouth Books \$19.95 (96p)
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America: “A huge statue greeted all who arrive there, whether human or mouse.” Squads of guardian cats rule out ship journeys, and the mouse begins experimenting with flying machines. Kuhlmann makes every detail of the mouse's endeavor look and sound delightfully plausible, from his da Vinci-like working sketches to his plan to hoist his plane to the top of a tower by attaching it to the gears of the tower's clock. The fragility of his machine and the owls that watch him like sentinels at every step give the story constant tension: the owls' golden eyes are painted with eerie menace. It's all terrific entertainment, and the fame Kuhlmann imagines for the mouse when he finally succeeds (“The Transatlantic Rodent Hero” trumpets a billboard) inspires a future famous aviator—or so Kuhlmann claims. An exceptionally fine debut. Ages 4–up. (May)

Publisher's Weekly Starred Review

★ In a project that seamlessly blends elements of a picture book, comic, and novel, gifted newcomer Kuhlmann imagines that the world's first transatlantic flight was made not by Charles Lindbergh, but by an intrepid German mouse flying in the opposite direction, starting from Hamburg. Driven to desperation by the deaths of many of his compatriots in newly invented mousetraps, the mouse decides to head for

North
South

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“Perhaps the most visually stunning book of the year.”

The Huffington Post Spring 2014
Picture Book Preview

AN INTERVIEW WITH TORBEN KUHLMANN:

Tell us about your childhood in Germany?

I was born in the small town of Sulingen in Northern Germany. As early as kindergarten I was known as a passionate draftsman. As long as I can remember, I've been fascinated by steam engines, old ocean liners, visionary inventors like Thomas Edison and Leonardo DaVinci, and—most importantly—by the early aviation pioneers, from Lilienthal to the Wright Brothers. When I was growing up, strange contraptions made out of junk, found objects, and other odds and ends “decorated” the backyard of my parents' house.

As I grew older, my artwork became enriched by a growing interest in storytelling, art, film and music.



What was the inspiration for Lindbergh The Tale of a Flying Mouse?

The story of a flying mouse is more or less a love letter to everything that fascinated me as a child. And everything started with a simple idea: A little mouse ventures through old attics and discovers bats. It is then inspired and eager to learn to fly. Basically, it is a play on words. The German word for bat is “Fledermaus” and a more precise translation would be “fluttermouse”, a mouse that flutters

Tell us about how you create your illustrations?

My favorite technique is watercolor. For my illustrations I like the combination of drawing and painting; the mixture of rough strokes and fine lines on the one hand, and the free and more arbitrary characteristics of watercolor on the other. *Lindbergh* is a prime example of my preferred style.

Though your subject matter is fantastical, your illustrations are very detailed and realistic. Is this intentional?

One of the main goals behind the conception of *Lindbergh* was the creation of a convincing world. I tried to draw an accurate portrait of the early 20th century. The realistic look and the 3-dimensional character of my illustrations underline this idea. Everything is meant to lure you into this world—you are a silent observer of the events—and by the end you may think to yourself: “I can imagine it could have happened this way!”

Torben Kuhlmann was born in Germany. Creative as a child, small airplanes, strange machines and steaming railways made their way into his drawings and later into his acrylic and oil paintings. He studied illustration and design at the University for Applied Sciences in Hamburg. He works as a freelance illustrator. *Lindbergh – The Tale of a Flying Mouse* is his first children's book