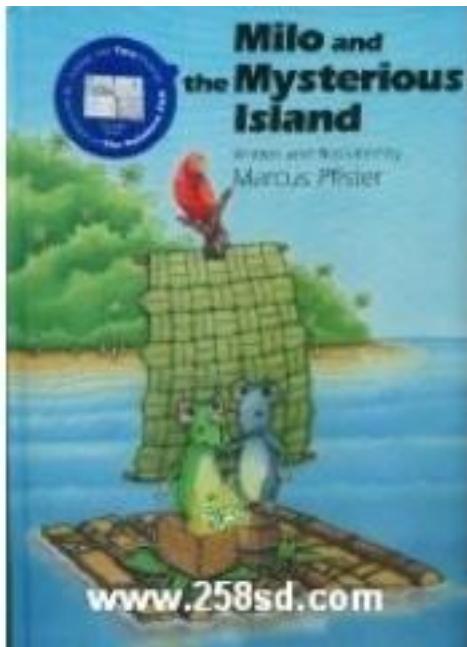


Milo and the Mysterious Island



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From School Library Journal Gr 2-4-This seagoing saga contains aspects of the Columbus story and the "Choose Your Own Adventure" series (Bantam). Milo and his fellow cliff mice sail on a homemade raft to an island where strange, striped mice are reputed to live. Magical stones that give light are in their cargo. When the strangers finally arrive, they see "a crowd of striped mice standing on the beach, waiting for them-." The last 13 pages of the book are split into two endings, one happy and one sad. Will the cliff mice be friendly and cooperative, share their treasures, and hope for the best? Or, will they be fearful, untrusting, and greedy? The fuzzy, subdued illustrations give a mysterious sense of place and a chance for the glittery, golden, magical stones to shine-literally! This well-written story would be a great inspiration for group discussion about the spirit of exploration and encountering people who are

different.-Carolyn Jenkins, First Parish Unitarian Church, Portland, MECopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Ages 5-8. Swiss-born Pfister first "dazzled" us with books such as *Rainbow Fish* (1992), with gold foil highlights over watercolor illustrations. This charming look at tribal mice, a sequel to *Milo and the Magical Stones* (1998), again makes use of the shine-and-sparkle technique. When Milo's restless spirit leads him to adventure, he and his cliff mice friends set sail for places unknown. With only their "magical stones" to comfort them, they endure to find a new island. At this point, the pages are split horizontally, offering children two completely separate endings: "The Happy Ending" and "The Sad Ending." The happy one finds the green mice sharing their luscious red berries, just as the cliff dwellers share the radiant light of their stones. The sad ending shows the cliff mice guarding their secrets and gobbling more berries than they should rightfully eat. Lessons learned in both scenarios make this a fine effort and a good addition to any library.
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