



## Just a Mess

*Mercer Mayer*

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Mercer Mayer's Little Critter has made quite the mess in this classic, funny, and heartwarming book. Whether he's shoving junk under the bed, cramming toys in the closet, or overstuffing drawers with clothes, both parents and children alike will relate to this beloved story. A perfect way to teach kids about picking up after themselves!

## Just a Mess Details

Date : Published May 1st 2000 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published December 12th 1987)

ISBN : 9780307119483

Author : Mercer Mayer

Format : Paperback 24 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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## From Reader Review Just a Mess for online ebook

### Rachel says

This book was a good one too. There wasn't a hugely noticeable lesson in the book but it could be used to talk about many things in the classroom. In this book he can't find his mitt in his messy room and eventually ends up cleaning it and finding his mitt. It would be a good lesson for younger kids to keep their rooms clean.

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### Fourth Grade says

This book is about how the main character was going to play baseball but he couldn't find his mitten. He looked everywhere from inside to out. One thing he didn't notice was he didn't look hard enough. He looks one last time and ..... I recommend this book to kindergartners and first graders because there are smaller words for them to read.

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### Brenda says

Fun looking for the spider & cricket.

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### Connie says

Little Critter is big here. We pick them up cheap (well, cheaper than they already are) at the local used book store.

This book follows just the plot you'd expect - Little Critter loses his baseball glove and is told by his mother to clean his room. He does a dubious job at that and finally, just when he's almost forgotten why he started, he finds his glove!

Here's the thing. You can buy these books for \$4 anywhere (or, if you get them used, probably under a buck). You could stock your child's library primarily with these. Don't expect great literature, but they're good standbys, short for bedtime and "just one story" times.

The one really attractive feature they have is that they are a great example of the unreliable narrator. Whatever Little Critter \*says\* he's doing, you can be sure the picture shows just the opposite. This is a good narrative convention, and it's never too early to have your kid learn about it through blatant demonstration.

And kids like them. Little-little ones can sit through them, and older-little ones, just learning to read, still find them interesting enough to sit down for.

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## **Guadalupe Sanchez says**

Just a mess by Mayer Mercer

Genre: humor and comedy Reading level: P-3 grade Format: good

Just a mess is a book about a little critter who is trying to look for his baseball mitt. He looks outside and he finds nothing. So then he asks his mother if she can help him find his mitt but she tells him to look for it in his room because she knows he has a mess in his room. So he tries looking for his mitt in his room and doesn't know where to start because he has a lot of mess. So he tries to stick everything in his closet and under his bed. Until he notices his pillow is missing so he looks around his bed and finally finds his mitten. This book was funny because it reminds me when I was a little girl and would always have a mess whenever I played and couldn't find my toys. This book would be nice to share with the students to relate with the character.

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## **Sarah says**

LC learns how helpful it can be to keep your room clean---you just might be able to find your missing things.

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## **Slayermel says**

This book always makes me laugh. I have read it with the children in my classroom several times, especially when clean up is becoming an issue. The children think it's quite funny and always have comments on little critters cleaning technique. :0)

Little critter has lost his baseball mitt and his mother suggests he clean his room to find it.

Little critter starts to clean his room by throwing things in the closet and shoving things under the bed. He ultimately finds his mitt in the process losing his pillow, and then finds that as well. It seems Little Critters dumping technique works for him.

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## **Wendy says**

This is a fun book about a "little critter" who has to clean his very messy room, but does not do it in a way that any mother would accept. He shoves things in his closet and under his bed.

I used this book to prompt a math lesson in which the students had to clean up their unifix cubes, but they had to do it the right way, not at all like the "little critter". The "right way" to clean up the unifix cubes in this lesson was to make tens. The students worked as partners to make tens with the unifix cubes.

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### **John says**

One of my favorites as a child, Just a mess is picture book about a character that refuses to clean his room. That is, until he misplaces his baseball. The illustrations really do a fantastic job of depicting clutter to the verge of anxiety. These illustrations are done in colored pencil, and perhaps watercolors. A great book with verbiage that challenges the young readers ability to flow through new and familiar vocabulary, but is not too wordy. The artwork also helps to explain the story without actually having to read a situation in order to fully understand what is happening in the story. A great read for young readers.

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### **kim says**

classic

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### **Doniell says**

I've always loved Little Critter books by Mercer Mayer, but I'm going to be an adult for a moment because I'm talking about my child.

My kid HATES clean up time. Cleaning up ANYTHING is pure torture and takes hours, tears, tantrums, and wears me and husband out. While I appreciate that Little Critter behaved like any normal kiddo, I think there should have been some reinforcement of "If you're going to clean your room, do it right." I have a feeling that closet gave someone in the Critter family a concussion.

Guess what my kid does? He shoves everything without regard into containers. You can't find anything you're looking for. SMH

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### **Shiloah says**

Another cute book that loves children. ❤?

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### **Abbey Reeser says**

Mayer, M. (1987). *Just a Mess*. Racine, WI: Western Publishing Company, Inc.

This story is about a very messy boy who seems to not be able to find his baseball mitt. He search all around the house but couldn't find it. When talking to his mother she suggested that it was probably misplaced in his extremely messy room and that it was time for him to clean it up. He didn't feel like cleaning his room alone so he asked his mom, dad, and sister to help but they were not interested, he made the mess so he should have to clean it they thought. So he started "cleaning" it himself, by shuffling everything into his closet, dresser, and under the bed. Once it was perfectly cleaned to his standards, he noticed he was missing his pillow. He started looking all around his bed and happened to find his baseball mitt. Suddenly his missing

pillow was no longer a priority.

I thought the book was okay, it is an easy read for children and they are likely to find the story humorous. It displayed the message that you are responsible for your own actions. I felt they could have incorporated better organization skills by having his mother model correct cleaning habits, so kids reading the book could visually see this is not the proper way of putting things away, but overall I thought it was just okay.

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### **Becky says**

First sentence: Today I couldn't find my baseball mitt. I looked in my tree house. I looked under the back steps. I asked Mom if she had seen it. She said I should try my room. I never thought to look there. What a mess!

Premise/plot: Little Critter has a messy room. (Anyone caught by surprise there?!) Since he can't get anyone to help him clean his room, he decides to do it for himself...in a way that only Little Critter can. (Well, I take that back. Little Critter's technique isn't all that original.) Will he find his baseball mitt?

My thoughts: Perhaps with the exception of Ramona Quimby (did she have a messy room too?) the character I most identified with as a child was LITTLE CRITTER. I love, love, love, love, crazy love Mercer Mayer's Little Critter.

The rest of the mess could fit under my bed. So I put it there. Then I made the bed. Won't Mom be pleased.

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### **Aiden and Jack says**

GRL: I

DRA: 16

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