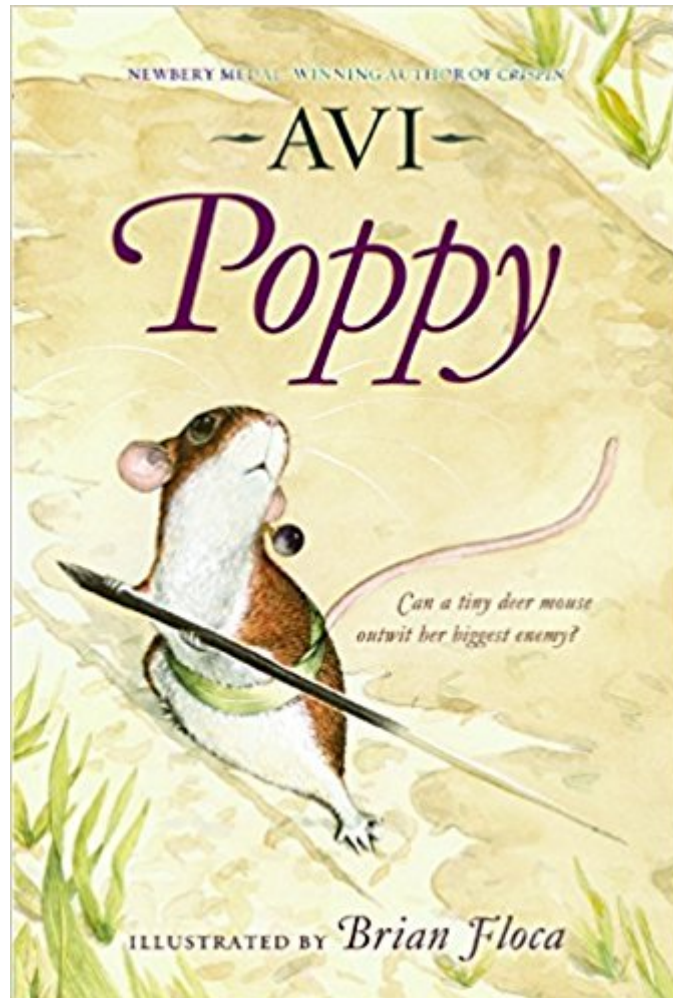




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# Poppy (Tales From Dimwood Forest)



## Synopsis

Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Winner \* ALA Notable Book \* ALA Booklist Editors' Choice \* School Library Journal Best Book

“This exciting story is richly visual. The underlying messages, to challenge unjust authority and to rely on logic and belief in oneself, are palatably blended with action and suspense.” School Library Journal

In the second book in the Tales of Dimwood Forest by Newbery Medal-winning author Avi, a tiny deer mouse named Poppy dares to stand up to a tyrannical owl. The story is accompanied by inviting illustrations from Caldecott Medal-winning artist Brian Floca. Poppy knew she was taking a risk following her beloved Ragweed to Bannock Hill, but a night of dancing with the handsome golden mouse was just too tempting. So when Ragweed is scooped up by the sinister owl, Mr. Ocax, who rules over Dimwood forest, she's devastated. Her whole life she was warned of Mr. Ocax's evil ways—how could she have been so foolish to put herself and Ragweed at risk? To make matters worse, when Poppy attempts to move with her family to a different part of the woods where the food supply is richer, Mr. Ocax refuses to let them go. Despite what she's been led to believe for years, Mr. Ocax is not as strong as he wants the mice to think he is. Armed with the bravery, gumption, and wit of a hero, Poppy embarks on a dangerous quest—joined by the irascible but lovable porcupine, Ereth—to defeat Mr. Ocax and lead her family to a better home. A perennially popular story of courage and determination, Poppy is a fixture on state award lists and in classrooms across the country.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Series: Tales from Dimwood Forest

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reissue edition (August 15, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0380727692

ISBN-13: 978-0380727698

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 152 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,743 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #47 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds #390 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Newbery Honor author Avi (Tom, Babette and Simon, reviewed June 12) turns out another winner with this fanciful tale featuring a cast of woodland creatures. As ruler of Dimwood Forest, Ocax the hoot owl has promised to protect the mice occupying an abandoned farmhouse as long as they ask permission before "moving about." Poppy, a timid dormouse, is a loyal, obedient subject-until she sees Ocax devour her fiance and hears the owl deny her father's request to seek new living quarters. To prove that the intimidating ruler is really a phony, Poppy embarks on a dangerous and eye-opening quest, which ends with her one-on-one battle with Ocax. While the themes about tyranny and heroism are timeless, Avi leavens his treatment with such 20th-century touches as Poppy's jive-talking boyfriend and Poppy's own romantic vision of herself as Ginger Rogers. An engaging blend of romance, suspense and parody, this fantasy is well-nigh irresistible. Illustrations not seen by PW. Ages 9-11. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 3-5?A fast-paced, allegorical animal story. Mr. Ocax is a great horned owl who rules the mice who live around Dimwood Forest, preying on their fears by promising protection from the dreaded porcupine in exchange for unconditional obedience. Challenging his despotic authority is the smart-talking, earring-sporting golden mouse Ragweed, whose refusal to obey turns him into a meal for the owl. His timid sweetheart Poppy returns home, where she learns that a delegation must go to request permission from Mr. Ocax to relocate half of the mouse family as they have outgrown their present quarters. When he refuses, Poppy, inspired by Ragweed's independent thinking, decides to undertake the scouting journey to the proposed new home anyway, encountering along the way an irreverent porcupine who explains that he and his ilk are no threat to mice. Armed with Ragweed's earring, a quill sword, and the awareness of the owl's deception, she plans to expose Ocax as a cowardly bully. She finds herself in a fierce battle with him, resulting in his death and allowing for the mice's liberation. This exciting story is richly visual, subtly humorous, and skillfully laden with natural-history lessons. The anthropomorphism is believable and the characters are memorable. The underlying messages, to challenge unjust authority and to rely on logic and belief in oneself, are palatably blended with action and suspense. Black-and-white illustrations are in keeping with the changing moods and forest locale. A thoroughly enjoyable book.?Marie Orlando, Suffolk

Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NYC Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Great choice for our kids' book club. The kids were very interested in the action scenes, and we had lots to discuss about the theme of questioning authority.

Nice book but be aware that the cover is not sturdy paper. Book warped within one day. Good thing it was cheap. But it serves its purpose if you aren't looking for a collectible version.

This audio book was purchased for a middle school library for 6th grade teacher use for an entire class to hear the story being read!

A memorable story.

son's favorite books series

Beautiful story and illustrations but for older children than stated.

love the book good condition

Great book for my daughter ( 9 years old )

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