

EVAN BRAIN and the Christmas Rat

EVAN BRAIN and the Christmas Rat is a true story. On Christmas Eve with the family gathered for a family dinner, a rat leapt out of the toilet to wreak havoc and mayhem. Sounds gross, and it was, but it certainly livened up our quiet holiday celebration.

Each member of Evan's alien family illustrates and provides an eyewitness account of the incident in **EVAN BRAIN and the Christmas Rat**. Well, not everyone. Since Eve can't draw to save her life, she made the Becker-Doylettes illustrate her chapter. Naturally they did this graciously and with great enthusiasm.

The rat didn't provide any illustrations either since his account comes from beyond the grave. One point of clarification — the rat was not related to the Becker-Doylettes. We don't know if the rat could draw.

From Eve's story...

I carried the sleeping Evan to the bathroom. After positioning him so he could hit the target, I pulled down Evan's skivvies, and reached around him to flip up the lid. In the toilet was a huge, nasty-looking RAT! The startled rodent began thrashing about in a frenzy. It SCARED THE BEJEEBERS OUT OF ME.

I ran screaming down the hall... my youngest son was the farthest thing from my mind.

Evan did escape. I beat him to the den, where rescuers awaited us, but he wasn't far behind me. I don't think his screaming was as loud as mine, but



drawing by Colin Doyle

I'm certain I wasn't the only one screaming.

I have no recollection whether Evan pulled up his underwear or shucked it off in the melee. He may have been clad in his birthday suit for the rest of the adventure, but I couldn't say...

From Barry's story...

Evan was frog-marched, still fast asleep, to the bathroom and placed in the strategic position. In a combined motion, the pants went down and the toilet lid and seat went up.

We all heard the blood-curdling scream. We heard the dash down the hallway. The hall door was flung open and Eve sprinted into the den, arms pumping, eyes wild...the mother's bond was broken by a rat.

From Evan's story...

I lifted the toilet seat and went about my business. It wasn't until too late that I noticed my blunder: the Kraylax leapt from the porcelain bowl, dripping wet, stained with poo from days of yore, claws hyperextended. Its jowls flopped wildly from side to side, spittle caking the tiled walls. I drew my sword, but the Kraylax slapped it from my hand.

I was trapped between a rock and a hard place. Or rather, a magenta-hued bloodthirsty worm and a locked bathroom door...



drawing by Evan Doyle

From Tory's story...

A huge hideous black rat was floundering about in the toilet like an elephant trying to learn how to swim. Mom ran down the hall screaming... Poor pitiful Evan, abandoned by Mom, screamed and ran out of the bathroom...



Colin tells the rat's story...

And then there was light. The roof above my private pool was raised and two filthy humans started down at me with beady little eyes. They screeched and skittered away...

Stay tuned...



drawing by Colin Doyle

drawing by Evan Doyle