

Hyatt's Mills, 1800

By Jackson Litsey
April 16th, 2009.

'Hyatt's Mills is a rat's heaven', thought Stanley as he was chasing rats out of the bookstore, *'Or at least it must be, with all of the ones that are here right now.'* He was chasing them out so that they wouldn't come in and gnaw on the books. Plus, if a customer even caught a glimpse of a rat tail in the store, they'd run into the street screaming about the Black Plague coming back or something equally ridiculous sounding. But for some reason, people took it seriously and they wouldn't come into the store for weeks.

If that hapened, Stanley shuddered, he would get fired for sure. Then it would be back onto the streets for you, my boy, and go find another job somewhere else. He could imagine the storeowner's pudgy face yelling *that* without even trying. So in

the meantime, he would have to be careful and get every single flea-ridden one of them out of the store. Finally, he had cornered the very last one. It looked around, looking for some kind of way to escape. Fortunately for it, it found one right before Stanley was about to lunge for him with the jar. *Unfortunately* for Stanley, this particular avenue of escape went right up his pants, across his chest and out of the neck of his shirt. A second before the jar smashed into the floor around him, he raced forward across the floor with the predescribed route. Needless to say, this did not make Stanley the slightest bit more satisfied with his job. *Maybe the streets wouldn't be so bad*, He thought. *At least I wouldn't have to be doing* this. Stanley then got up found the rat with his teeth a centimeter away from a book (*An Encyclopedia of Rodents*, to be exact) Quick as a flash, Stanley ran up, knocked the rat off the book and caught it neatly in the jar.

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Throwing it out into the street, Stanley turned around, gathered up his things, and walked straight out the door. *I heard that McFeely's breadstore is a good place to work.* He thought as he walked down the street *And the cook will give you the spare bread for free if you work there.*