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Opening extract from

# Coraline

Written by

## Neil Gaiman

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IT WAS A VERY OLD HOUSE—IT HAD AN ATTIC UNDER THE ROOF..

...A CELLAR UNDER THE GROUND...

...AND AN OVERGROWN GARDEN WITH HUGE OLD TREES IN IT.

CORALINE'S FAMILY DIDN'T OWN ALL OF THE HOUSE—IT WAS TOO BIG FOR THAT. INSTEAD THEY OWNED PART OF IT.

THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE OLD HOUSE.



MISS SPINK AND MISS FORCIBLE LIVED IN THE FLAT BELOW CORALINE'S.

THEY WERE BOTH OLD AND ROUND AND LIVED WITH A NUMBER OF AGING HIGHLAND TERRIERS. ONCE UPON A TIME THEY HAD BOTH BEEN ACTRESSES.

YOU SEE, ***CAROLINE,*** BOTH MYSELF AND MISS FORCIBLE WERE FAMOUS ACTRESSES IN OUR TIME. WE TROD THE BOARDS, LUVVY.

OH, DON'T LET HAMISH EAT THE FRUITCAKE OR HE'LL BE UP ALL NIGHT WITH HIS TUMMY.

IT'S CORALINE... ...NOT CAROLINE. ***COR***ALINE.