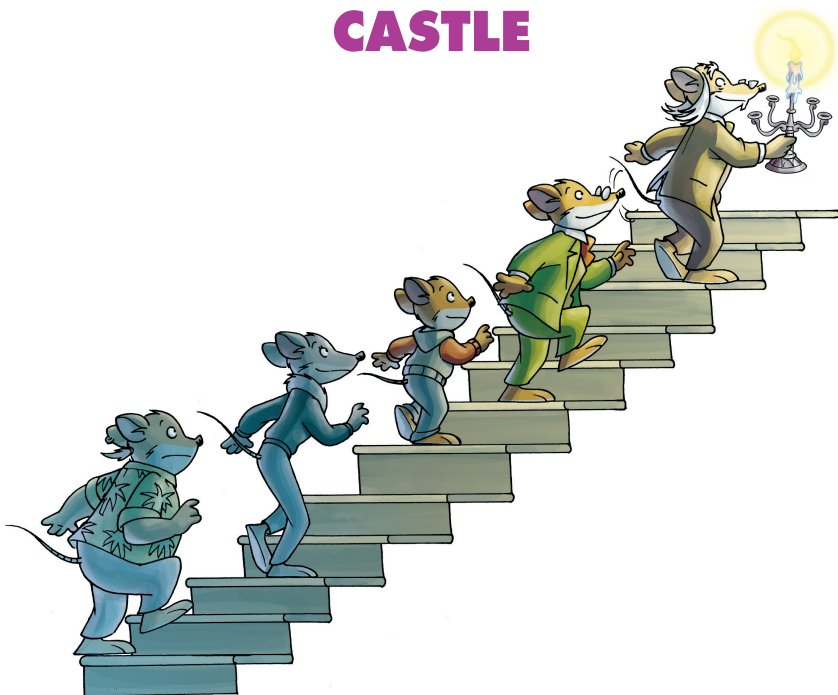


# Geronimo Stilton

## THE HAUNTED CASTLE



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# PHONE CALL FOR MR. STILTON!

It began like any other ordinary morning.

**As usual**, I woke up in a great mood.

**As usual**, I scurried over to my office.

**As usual**, I squeaked “good morning” to all my colleagues.

Oh, excuse me. I almost forgot to introduce myself. My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*. I am the editor of the most famous





newspaper in New Mouse City, *The Rodent's Gazette*.

The staff began our daily editorial meeting. We were in search of an **IDEA** for a new column. But none of us could agree on what it should be **ABOUT**.

As the reporters were pitching a few concepts, the phone rang.

*Ring, ring, riiiiiiiiiiiiing!*

I picked up the receiver. "Hello, Stilton here, *Geronimo Stilton!*"

*Bzzzzz . . . bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz . . .*

It was a **bad connection**.

An operator with a nasal squeak cut in. "Mr. Stilton, will you accept a **collect call?**"

*Bzzz . . . bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz . . .*

The line kept buzzing.

Who could be calling me





collect? It was so **strange!**

“A **collect call** means **YOU PAY** for the phone call!” the operator explained. Well, of course I knew that! “Do you accept the charges? Hmmm? Do you accept or not? I need an answer here! *I don't have all day to twiddle my whiskers while you make up your mind, you know!*”

“Oh, I'm sorry. I was a bit distracted by the buzzing on the line,” I explained. “I accept, of course!”

Suddenly, I heard a **familiar** voice squawk, “Geronimo? Is that you, Geronimo?”

*Bzzzzzz . . . bzzz . . .*

I **recognized** that squeak right away. It belonged to my **Uncle Samuel S. Stingysnout!**

