

Dear mouse friends,
Welcome to the world of



Geronimo Stilton



THE RODENT'S GAZETTE
EDITORIAL STAFF





Geronimo Stilton

A learned and brainy mouse; editor of *The Rodent's Gazette*



Thea Stilton

Geronimo's sister and special correspondent at *The Rodent's Gazette*



Trap Stilton

An awful joker; Geronimo's cousin and owner of the store Cheap Junk for Less



Benjamin Stilton

A sweet and loving nine-year-old mouse; Geronimo's favorite nephew



Geronimo Stilton

BOLLYWOOD BURGLARY



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17 SPICE STREET

That **day** began like any other — it seemed like a **perfectly normal** day, in fact. But it turned out to be one of the most incredible, moustastic days of my life! By the time I put my snout back on my pillow that night, my life had **CHANGED FOREVER**.

Oh, excuse me, I almost forgot to introduce myself. My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*, and I am the editor of *The Rodent's Gazette*, the most famous newspaper on Mouse Island.





Now, where was I? Oh yes! My morning began like any other . . .

I climbed out of bed and **scampered** to my office. Once I got settled at my desk, I started brainstorming. I had to come up with an idea for a new series of books. Hmm . . . should I write a book on **gardening**? Or **do-it-yourself** projects? Or **SPORTS**? Or . . .

I thought and thought and thought. By lunchtime, I was still thinking.



AND THEN SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED . . .



I glanced out the window, and there was a small plane towing a **BANNER** right outside — I mean, *right* outside — my office. VISIT INDIA! it said. **Hmm, that was unusual!**

The mailmouse came and left me ninety-four travel brochures about India.

Hmm, that was a bit odd!

A second later, the phone rang and a **STRANGE** rodent squeaked, “My dear Mr. Stilton, how about a trip to India? I’ll give you a discount . . .”

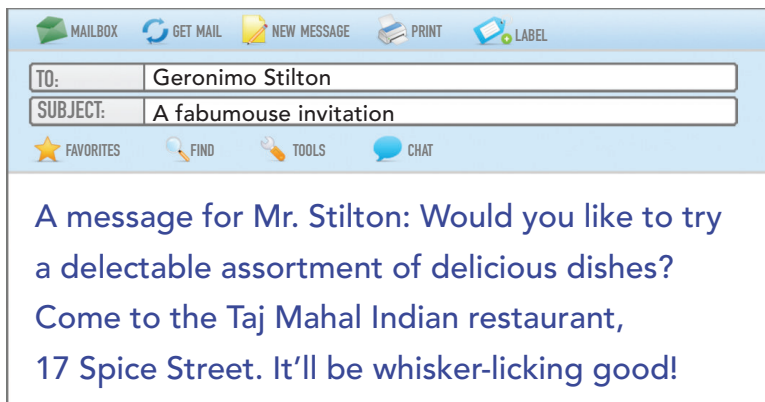


How strange!



“**Thanks, but I think I’ll pass,**” I answered.

Then I got an email with a *very* weird invitation . . .



Hmm, that was a wee bit bizarre!

But on the other paw, it was lunchtime, and I was hungry. I didn't want to think twice about food. So I hailed a **TAXI** and headed toward 17 Spice Street.

When my cab screeched up to the curb, I spotted a fabumouse **painted wooden door** and smelled an **intriguing** array of spices . . . **yummy, yum, yum!** It sure smelled whisker-licking good!



What a delicious aroma!

Taj Mahal

17



INDIAN FOOD

Indian cuisine includes a wide assortment of colors, aromas, and **flavors**.

Food from India's northern regions is non-vegetarian and less spicy, using more dairy products in dishes. The cuisine of the southern regions is mostly vegetarian and tends to be **spicier**.

Dishes are often flavored with **SPICES** like turmeric, coriander, cumin, and tamarind, also known as the "Indian date."

Rice is a staple food of India, and it is served hot as a side dish. When cooked in broth and flavored with spices, it's called **pilau**. When served with chicken, lamb, or vegetables, it's called **BIRYANI**.

Bread is also an essential staple, especially in the north. There are many varieties of bread. The most widespread in India is **ROTI** (also known as **CHAPATI**), an unleavened round bread made with whole-wheat flour.

DAL is a typical Indian dish that is creamy and made with lentils and various spices. There are many types of **DAL**.

