



The Elevator Family

By Douglas Evans

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WHAT'S THE STRANGEST HOTEL ROOM YOU'VE EVER STAYED IN? WHATEVER IT IS, THE WILSON FAMILY CAN TOP IT. BECAUSE FOR THREE DAYS, THEY LIVE IN AN ELEVATOR.

For the Wilson family, only the best will do! So when they arrive at the San Francisco Hotel and discover that there are no available rooms, they decide to stay in the place that suits them best of all: a room that has its ups . . . and its downs—a room called Otis, the hotel elevator.

Staying in the elevator is absolutely “fantabulous!” After all, where else would Mr. Walter Wilson, Mrs. Winona Wilson, 10-year-old Winslow Wilson, and his twin sister, Whitney Wilson get to meet:

- A weary traveling salesman of kids' fads
- A British rock group with a funny name
- A lovesick bellhop
- A society lady and her pampered poodle
- And a slew of other surprising visitors!

For fans of middle-grade giants like **Andrew Clements**, **Jerry Spinelli**, **Louis Sachar**, and **Judy Blume**, ***The Elevator Family*** is a funny and heartwarming story about an eccentric family who'll be remembered long after they check out of Otis. Drop in on them for an elevator ride filled with adventure and zany humor!

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In his characteristically quirky style, Evans (*The Classroom at the End of the Hall*; *Apple Island*) here makes the most of perhaps the most constricted setting in modern memory. After the "kind woman at the front desk" of a San Francisco hotel informs the Wilson family that there are no vacancies, they step into the elevator and discover this "first-rate room. And it appears to be vacant." They are thrilled with its amenities: a full-length mirror, a phone, wall-to-wall carpeting, piped-in music and a panel of buttons to play with. Their vertically mobile home even has a name: Otis. The author squeezes in some diverting action: the family of four host a catered dinner party for the hotel guests they have come to know (en route to their respective floors), and manage to foil a kidnapping attempt without leaving their quarters. Forgivably, Evans descends to some predictable puns (Wilson pater announces that his family has been in "many tight spots") and comes up with some over-the-top wordplay ("If I don't fit in time to keep fit at the hotel's fitness center, I have a fit") and alliteration ("On the twentieth floor, Tom and Tia Twiddle, two tourists from Texas, entered Otis toting trucks"). All in good fun. Like the Wilsons' living space, readers' imaginations will expand to accommodate this blithe narrative. Fittingly sporting a vertical format, this clever tall tale will give kids' spirits a lift. Ages 8-12. (May)

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From [Booklist](#)

When the Wilson family arrive for a vacation at the San Francisco Hotel, they learn that all the rooms are booked. Nonplused, they opt for the only vacant space--the elevator! They settle into "Otis" right away, bedding down on their trunks, ordering from room service, and making friends with a variety of hotel guests and employees. During their stay, they manage to further the cause of true love for a bellboy and a florist shop employee and solve the mystery of a kidnapped publishing heiress. Evans' lighthearted story is just the sort of realistic fantasy that will appeal to beginning chapter-book readers. The quirky characters (including a British rock group named What, a society matron with a poodle named Oui-Oui, and a traveling salesman who specializes in children's fads) are sure to amuse parents as well. Give this to primary-school teachers searching for a chapter book to read aloud, or to young readers looking for a funny book. *Kay Weisman*
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From Kirkus Reviews

An endearingly eccentric family settles into the elevator and hearts of the patrons and employees at the San Francisco Hotel in this over-the-top tale from Evans. No room at the inn is no problem for the intrepid Wilsons; Mr. and Mrs. and their twin ten-year-olds, Winslow and Whitney, simply set up camp in the hotel's elevator. From their mobile abode, they cheerfully offer advice and hospitality to everyone who visits their room. The gregarious Wilsons are true humanitarians, helping out their fellow travelers; providing insights into the opposite sex for a lovelorn teenager; and offering companionship for a lonely salesman. They are delightfully insouciant about their unusual accommodations, and Evans's campy humor will have readers groaning with glee. When questioned about life in an elevator, the twins reply, It had its ups. . . . And downs. Evans works out the intricacies of life on board an elevator with aplomb, neatly making the implausible seem possible. Throughout their adventures, the Wilsons maintain their affability. Even the ungrateful attitude of the kidnapped heiress they rescue fails to quell the good nature or good will of the irrepressible Wilsons. Brief chapters loaded with wry humor keep readers' interest high and are a great draw for reluctant ones. A wacky, warm-hearted tale. (Fiction. 8-12) -- *Copyright © 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karon Hall:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed The Elevator Family? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have some other opinion?

William Threatt:

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Harold Walsh:

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Jack Johnson:

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