



The Bad Child's Book of Beasts

Hilaire Belloc

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Joseph Hilaire Pierre Ren

The Bad Child's Book of Beasts Details

Date : Published January 1st 1982 by Sparhawk Books (first published 1896)

ISBN : 9780960577637

Author : Hilaire Belloc

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Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Humor, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Bad Child's Book of Beasts for online ebook

Jane says

This never fails to make me smile. Before Ogden Nash, there was the divine Mr. Belloc.
The Dodo used to walk about, and take the sun and air,
The sun still warms his native land yet the dodo is not there.
The voice that used to squawk and squeak is now forever dumb,
But you may see his bones and beak all in the Mus-e-um.

Binibining 'E (of The Ugly Writers) says

Frog is a beast? oh yes! Lions and Tigers too. lol.

Stephanie says

Reminded me of Roald Dahl, as some other reviewers have said. Really goofy little verses for children. And watch out for all the shooting of endangered animals! Not very PC for today's standards, lol!

Jenny says

Gift from Grandpa to Ruairi in that great dry British style, including "More Beasts for Worse Children" and "A Moral Alphabet."

Such as the entry on D for Dinosaur telling the tale of the happy-go-lucky dino, whose downfall was that he liked to sleep in trees, with the resultant tumble the reason that "His fossil, therefore, comes to light / All broken up: and serve him right. Moral: If you were born to walk the ground, / Remain there; do not fool around." (p 110)

Or "E stands for Egg. Moral: The Moral of this verse / Is applicable to the Young. Be terse." (p 111)

Stephen Brooke says

Before Dr. Seuss ever dreamed of cats in hats, Hillaire Belloc created his menagerie in verse. There is certainly a similarity between the two authors—their unexpected rhymes, their mildly iconoclastic attitude—though Belloc's work is, perhaps, more openly artful. There is certainly no attempt to hide the sophistication of the writer.

Alas, the art that originally accompanied the poems had no similar Seussian verve. Still, this very short book

is a delight to read.

verbava says

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Frederick says

I was given the Dover paperback of this when I was about nine. I didn't really have an emotion about the book but I did love the line drawings. Dover, at that time, printed mostly facsimiles of first editions. I would place the original printing anywhere between 1899 and 1930. Certainly Belloc lived long enough to enrage a lot of literary snobs when he declared P. G. Wodehouse to be the greatest living writer in the English language, but Wodehouse wrote (and lived) for so long that I can imagine Belloc saying what he said anywhere from about 1926 to 1939 or so (by which time Belloc would surely have been dead.) Anyway, the Dover edition had those great illustrations. I can't say I related to the supposedly funny poetry. Hazarding a guess, I'd say the Lemony Snicket books get certain inspiration from THE BAD CHILD'S BOOK OF BEASTS.

For fans of Dover when Dover printed each paperback with the claim that "this is a permanent book" (because the books had string sewn into the binding, the way hardcovers used to have string sewn into the binding), I recommend getting on Abebooks.com and looking for a Dover edition. Reprint though it is, its probably become sought after. Dover called the string-in-the-binding "sewn signatures."

Dover Books is still based in Garden City, New York, just a half hour from where I live. Apparently there is a fantastic bookstore within Dover's headquarters. Dover printed a lot of Trollope facsimiles. Now all they print are books of uncopyrighted clip art and glued-together classics which are not facsimiles. I'm sure they print a facsimile or two still, but Dover as I knew it is no more.

Jim says

This is a book that can be read in less than twenty uproarious minutes. Here's a brief example, entitled "The Big Baboon":

The Big Baboon is found upon
The plains of Cariboo.

He goes about
with nothing on

(A shocking thing to do).

But if he
dressed respectably

And let his whiskers grow,
How like this Big Baboon would be

To Mister So-and-So.

Nicola Gruen says

We were reading this book tonight at bedtime when my 8 year old daughter exclaimed, "This is the same as the song I'm singing with the San Francisco Girls Chorus!" She ran straight away to her chorus folder and brought back "Anamalia - Candy Lion, Frog, Turtle Tango" by Earl J. Reisdorff. The frog is identical to the last chapter in this book, originally written in 1896! Quite reinforcing!

Alex Stroshine says

Belloc's little book of beasts. Not as good as his "Cautionary Tales" but there are some humourous bits. Some of the entries are too short for my liking.

Suzannah says

This is an utterly adorable book!

Sri says

Lucu tapi kadang kejam :(. Apa buku seperti ini bisa dikonsumsi anak-anak dengan aman ya? Adakah anak-anak yang baik hati tapi berselera humor gelap seperti ini? Buku anak-anak oleh Roald Dahl juga kadang kejam-kejam.

Charles says

'The Bad Child's Book of Beasts' is a charming little book of short poems about animals, with illustrations by Lord Blackwood (BTB).

It is Belloc's style which makes this book unique. It does remind one of Roald Dahl in fact, although 'The Bad Child's Book of Beasts' was written way back in 1896, exactly twenty years before Dahl was born. It is

difficult to recommend it to parents nowadays, as its potential of edification (which I believe to be essential in children's literature) for children is marred. It is not the fact that it is politically incorrect as one reviewer pointed out, what can you expect in a book written in the nineteenth century? It is the case that I believe it has become redundant. It can still be enjoyed, without a doubt, and thanks to its being easily available for free online, it remains a nice taste of Belloc as a writer for any discerning reader, young and adult.

Charming, even though it has become redundant as a piece of children's literature.

Le Petit Chat says

I was going to read this to my niece but alas it's really not worth it. The rhymes are silly with a lot of references to hunting but they are not as smooth flowing as Dr. Seuss for example.

Nevada Libert says

belloc is a great poet.

Torzilla says

This book contains a series of poems that are well written that describe the animals in our world. Children will find these tales not only catchy, but fun to listen to and repeat due to all the rhyming.

I found the tales to be entertaining and catchy – most made me grin. The illustrations accompanying this text are even more beautiful than the ones found in East O' the Sun and West O' the Moon. Not only are they realistic, but the attention to detail is astounding.

Steve says

Really funny poetry for children with a proto-Dahl flavor.

Abdullah Khasawneh says

I actually learned a thing or two from this book.

Bridget Gould says

This was a gift from my grandmother on my 6th birthday. Every year she took me to the bookstore and let

me pick out my present. I'm not sure if this book is responsible for my love of monsters, or if that's why I chose it in the first place, but it holds a very special place in my heart.

Jeremiah Bookworm says

Originally published in 1896, this zany children's book sold out its first edition within four days. The author, Hilaire Belloc, has fallen into obscurity, but in his day he was a well-known historian, biographer and novelist, as well as a friend of G.K. Chesterton. Belloc's verses are fun and imaginative; however, modern readers may object to a couple of unfortunate prejudicial statements ("the moral of this priceless work...will make you--from a little Turk--unnaturally good" (p.3), "The dromedary is a cheerful bird; I cannot say the same about the Kurd" (p.16)).
