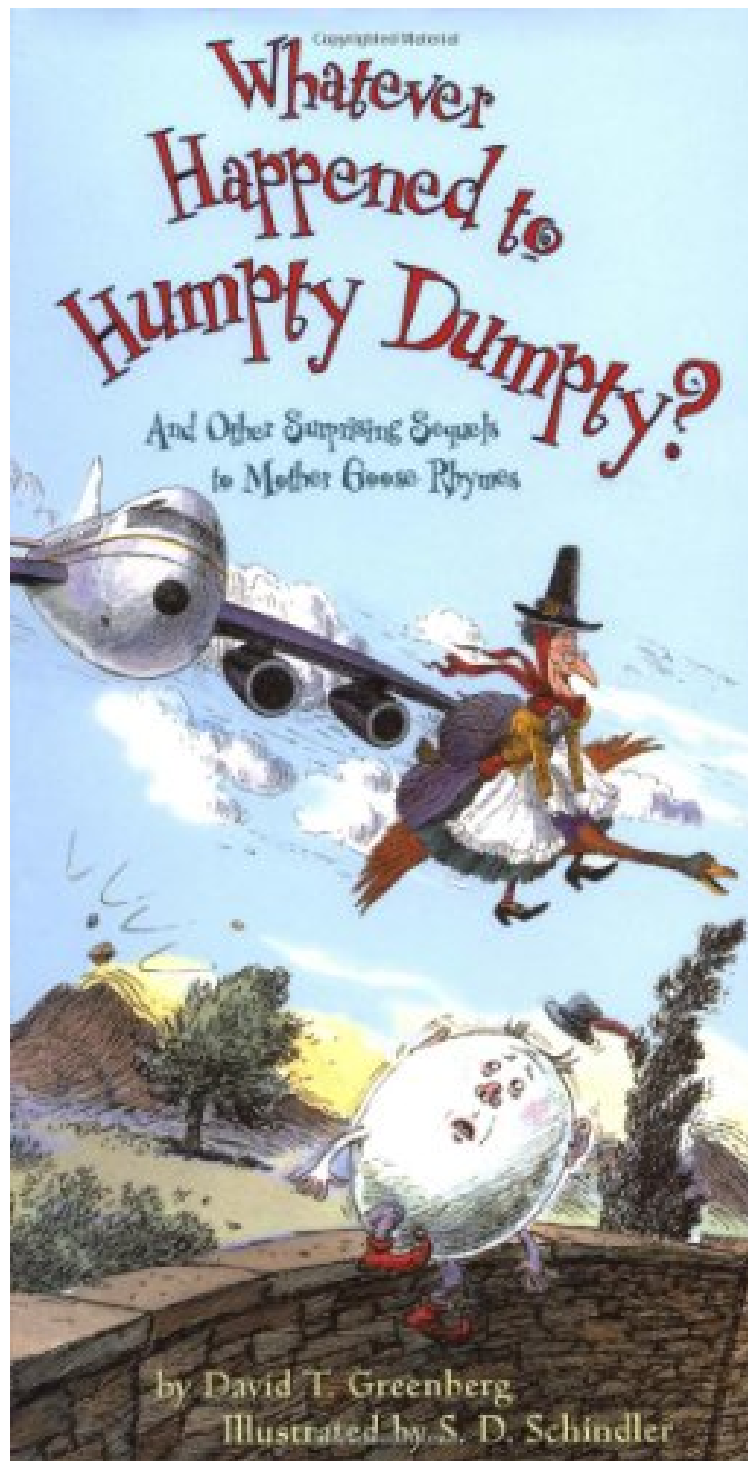


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## Whatever Happened to Humpty Dumpty?: And Other Surprising Sequels to Mother Goose Rhymes

David Greenberg

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**David Greenberg : Whatever Happened to Humpty Dumpty?: And Other Surprising Sequels to Mother Goose Rhymes** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Whatever Happened to Humpty Dumpty?: And Other Surprising Sequels to Mother Goose Rhymes*:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Funny, Motivating  
By Katie Porter As a elementary teacher, I am always looking for ways to motivate writing through the use of literature and this was a sure win! The kids could relate to the nursery rhymes and come up with their own ways to change the endings or add to them! Great, humorous, and a wonderful addition to any young (at heart) reader's library!  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fun for the whole family  
By Roz Levine These silly and irreverent sequels to some of Mother Goose's rhymes, written in language children will love, will leave family members of every age laughing. The accompanying illustrations are clever and humorous and add just the right touch. A wonderful book for everyone. I recommend it highly.  
3 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Not for Children  
By A Customer This book has a few clever lines, but in general is unsuitable for young children. Violent, scary and gross themes abound.

Humorous verses are added to traditional Mother Goose rhymes.

From Publishers Weekly Greenberg (Bugs!) carouses through Mother Goose's cupboard, pulling out an assortment of tales and pinning irreverent sequels to them. Remember Jack (as in "Jack be nimble")? Seems he wasn't exactly a blazing success in the end. In fact, "Jack tripped over the candlestick,/ Caught fire in a flash./ Now all that's left of Jack/ Is a little bit of ash." And Humpty Dumpty, on his way to becoming an omelette for all the king's horses and men, ends up as a royal mess when the monarch puts him in the blender without the lid. Other nursery celebrities include the old woman in the shoe, Miss Muffet and Jack Spratt and his wife; Greenberg also lampoons lesser-known characters such as Little King Boggan, Baby Dolly and Jerry Hall (no, not the one married to Mick Jagger), who is swallowed by a rat ("Now there isn't any question/ He will suffer in digestion"). As he gleefully mixes metaphors and scrambles genres, Greenberg risks annoying readers with forced rhymes or choppy rhythms that are a bit of a chore to read, but the overall fun factor compensates. Schindler's waggish illustrations join in the merry parody, at one point even conjuring a farmer's wife who resembles Martha Stewart to demonstrate the utility of the tails off the three blind mice ("They're good for noodles, pickup sticks,/ Good to tickle your toes,/ Good for yarn, candlewicks/ Good to pick your nose"). The oblong format adds to the volume's visual appeal. All ages. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From School Library Journal Grade 3-6-Outrageous gross-out sequels to 20 Mother Goose rhymes, destined to be a hit with fans of Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's collaborations. Accompanied by Schindler's Gorey-esque drawings (pen and ink with watercolor), these hilarious rhymes range from Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater, who puts his unhappy wife in, among other things, a lentil and "almost drove her mental" to Jack and Jill, who accidentally flush themselves down the toilet and out to sea. Kids will roar. The overall effect is so funny that the few forced rhymes will be forgiven. The tall, oblong shape of the book contributes to its quirkiness.  
Ann Cook, Winter Park Public Library, FL Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Kirkus sSome silly variations on the fates of familiar nursery rhyme characters add cheap laughs to traditional Mother Goose tales. Greenberg proposes that after Humpty's great fall, he almost became a giant omelet, but was accidentally splattered on the kitchen wall instead. Mother Goose and her gander ``both went/up to heaven/After colliding with a/747!" Peter Pumpkin Eater's wife gets her revenge by sticking her husband in a loaf of bread. Sending up Mother Goose can be rewarding, but it's never easy; the author, with little of the grace or beat of the originals, twists many tales with trendy, explicitly gross humor, e.g., Jack Spratt and his wife lick not only the platter clean, but a city bus, the dog's nose, and a garbage truck. The illustrations, despite their giddiness, have a decidedly old-fashioned feel, demonstrating Schindler's facility with nursery rhyme characterizations in finely inked cross-hatchings. (Picture book. 4-9) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.