



## Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes

*Henry L. Herz , Abigail Larson (Illustrations) , Josh Herz , Harrison Herz*

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**Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes** Henry L. Herz , Abigail Larson (Illustrations) , Josh Herz , Harrison Herz Enter an enchanted land of mythical creatures where manticores reign and ogres roar-a land of mystery and fright. A unique twist on traditional rhymes of everyone's youth, "Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes" presents a more sinister approach to these childhood classics, and yet the sing-song nature of the poems renders them playful and jovial at the same time. Little Witch Muffet is not frightened by a silly, little spider; she simply adds him to her stew!

Rotten zombies, giants, dwarves, and goblins mingle with werewolves, centaurs, and fauns. Follow along the skeleton stepping stones, scale up a palisade, claw at the window of a tasty child and bake him into a pumpkin shell. Monsters cook up delicious elvish pie, too! Every kid who has an eensy weensy bit of sense wants a pet with feathers white as snow, who flies like an eagle and bleats like a goat-a hippogriff, of course!

Six forest sprites with four times as many pixies escape from a loaf of bread atop the elaborate table of the fey queen; her feast has flown away! If you enjoy mischief and have a penchant for the morbidly hilarious, the Herzs' rhymes will satisfy your mythological curiosities.

Larson's illustrations give new life to these ancient figures, and her artistic style employs the bold lines and colorful movement of an action-packed comic book. The author also includes a "bestiary" with information about the book's legendary creatures, which hail from Scotland, Germany, Italy, Persia, Haiti, and Scandinavia.

### Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes Details

Date : Published January 20th 2015 by Pelican Publishing Company (first published December 19th 2014)

ISBN : 9781455620326

Author : Henry L. Herz , Abigail Larson (Illustrations) , Josh Herz , Harrison Herz

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Poetry, Fantasy, Nursery Rhymes, Fairy Tales

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## From Reader Review Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes for online ebook

### Selena says

I'm surprised by how much I liked this.

The art is gorgeous. The rhymes are cute and a good laugh, especially if you know the originals.

It contains such wonderful rhymes as "The Eensy Weensy Brownie," "Little Witch Moffet," and "Mary had a Hippogriff."

If you like magical creatures and nursery rhymes, this is definitely for you.

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### Kathleen says

Cute and clever! The illustrations and rhymes are a bit macabre, but not too gruesome for kids. Fun for those who are familiar with the originals! I thought the pictures made a great accompaniment to the text; the cover, which only shows half a page, really doesn't do justice to the inside.

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### Mark says

i just read this very cute nursery rhyme book. actually, i sat in my living room and read it to the family. my older boys (ages 13 and 12) loved the book and even were quoting some of the nursery rhymes later! my wife and i loved it, too! our 4 year old son thought the pictures were fun and some of the rhymes, too. i, personally, loved the illustrations, the cute twist to the mother goose rhymes and how fun it really was! henry herz has done another fantastic job and i would gladly share this book with elves and monsters of all ages!

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### Rachel Ayers says

Some of the rhymes come out better than others. The illustrations make this 5 stars throughout.

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### Leah (White Sky Project) says

I don't really review a lot of children's picture books on the blog, but when I got an email from the editor of *Beyond the Pale*, a fantasy and paranormal anthology I featured on the blog a while back, I couldn't say no to his latest work, *Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes*. When I read that this new picture book would have things like manticores, hydra, centaurs, and other interesting creatures, I was curious!

Off the bat, I was drawn to the awesome illustrations in this book. I just love it when picture books are just chock-full of vivid, colorful and interesting images. Of course, it also helps that the illustrations are interesting versions of characters and creatures from familiar children's rhymes and from mythology.

As you can read from the summary, the book is full of darker versions of nursery rhymes. For example, in this book, Little Miss Muffet is a witch, Wee Willie Winkie is a werewolf, and instead of Little Piggies we have a hydra. I'm a big fantasy fan so I really enjoyed the 'new' rhymes. I like the creativity that went into them and into the illustrations as well.

I asked the author about how they came up with the 'darker versions' of the rhymes and he shared that he was taking a picture book writing class and had an assignment to develop a manuscript.

He explained, "*I am a huge fantasy and science fiction fan. So, my thought was to take a familiar story, and inject fantasy creatures into it, aka a fractured fairy tale. Normally, I don't do rhyme (executing rhyme effectively in a picture book is HARD). But in this case, rhyme helped me in that I had to substitute creature names with the same number of syllables (and gender) as those of the original characters. Thus was Little Miss Muffet transformed into the sassier Little Witch Muffet.*"

By the way, the book also includes a Bestiary or a compilation of the beasts or creatures mentioned in the book, with a short description of each, and I thought that was a really cool thing to have in a picture book.

Overall, *Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes* is simply a fun book, especially for fantasy lovers. I think the book is a great way to introduce little kids to the world of fantasy!

*Disclaimer: I was given access to an early version of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated nor was I obligated or required to provide a positive review. All comments and views expressed here are my own.*

*This review first appeared on White Sky Project.*

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## **L\_manning says**

Everyone has heard of Mother Goose's nursery rhymes, but have you ever heard of Monster Goose? This book takes familiar stories and adds some fun new twists. Where else can you read the tale of This Little Hydra, and much more menacing substitute for This Little Piggy? With beautiful illustrations, this book will entertain in a whole new way.

I love to have a retelling of a story everyone is familiar with, so this book was right up my alley. So many nursery rhymes became so much more interesting and fun through these new versions. If the old versions were ever not quite dangerous enough for you, then these stories will probably be just right. I loved the illustrations as well. They managed to be beautiful while still portraying the mood of the stories. However, they also did an amazing job of not being too scary. Just creepy enough. This is a fun and beautiful book that will be sure to get you thinking past the usual nursery rhymes into a whole new world.

Book provided for review.

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## Gina Hott says

I LOVED Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes! It was so much fun to read to my teenagers ;) They each remembered me reading them the originals when they were toddlers and this was perfect and fun for all of us now!

The rhymes are fun & entrancing and the images a good mix of cartoon & reality.

More...

Author: Henry Herz, Josh Herz, Harrison Herz, Abigail Larson

Source: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc.

Grade: A

Ages: 4+

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## Gmr says

Now THIS is the nursery rhyme book Fantasy fans and players of role games have been WAITING for. Each page is a full color spread of fantasy illustrations that could have come straight from a Tolkien movie or D&D card deck. They're dark and creepy, earthy and base in their hungers (we're talking trolls eating elves, nothing more), all while playing with the rhymes we already know and love. The end result? Some come out just as sweet and some...a bit sinister.

Take the first, 'Hefty Jack Horner'....needless to say, a play off of 'Little Jack Horner' and recited to the very same tune. Let's just say, what he pulls out of his pie is NOT a plum, nor a very happy moment for those that helped MAKE it. \*gulp\* Then there's 'Eensy Weensy Brownie'...sang to the tune of 'Eensy Weensy Spider'. I mean really, if his mischievous grin wasn't enough to give away his mission, the outcome of the rhyme surely does...and with flair! Hey, it's not everyone that can match 'palisade' with 'dissuade' and make it work! On the sinister side of things would be 'Manticore, Manticore'...read to the tune of 'Pussycat, Pussycat'. Umm, well the pictures are scary enough by themselves but the ease at which he recounts his activities while in Persia leads me to believe someone else didn't enjoy the visit quite so much.

All in all, there is much fun to be had within these pages and I do believe it will find a home on shelves with little ones as well as those Fantasy fans that simply couldn't help themselves.

\*\*ecopy received for review

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## Storytime Books says

At first, when I looked at this book, I thought "Hmm...this looks like one of those old children books that came out in the 1960's or 1970's." Such books like these remind me of the days when I would visit my grandmother and go through the books she had in her living room, the ones that my father read as a child. It really took me back to my childhood. As I continued to read, I couldn't help but smile throughout the whole book, thinking "Wow, that's a really creative mythological twist to that nursery rhyme." When you read this version of nursery rhymes, it will remind you of certain movies and books, such as: The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings, and even Harry Potter. There were so many creative twists in this book, it really did feel like a new

generation revived of the old nursery rhymes. The illustrations, done by Abigail Larson, in my opinion, were perfect for this book. Like I mentioned above, it was these exact illustrations that brought me back to my childhood days at grandma's, looking at all her many books. From the coloring of the illustrations, to the way they were all very mythological portrayed, it summed all of the nursery rhymes perfectly. Another clever thing with this version of nursery rhymes is that it has an appendix at the very back of the book. So if anyone didn't understand certain words in the book, they can look it up in the back for a meaning. I was really impressed with this book. What a creative and clever way to re-vamp nursery rhymes for children.

If you are looking for a different and great version of mother goose nursery rhymes, I would check out this book. Adults, yes, even you should look at this book if you are a kid literature lover, or if you like the traditional version of nursery rhymes growing up. It will bring back memories for you I'm sure as it did for me.

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### **Renetta says**

You had me at Dungeons and Dragons... I loved these Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes! I'm a fan of anything twisted or fractured and this fit the bill. The illustrations are fantastic! I read an online copy but will be purchasing the book soon. It's a must in this house!

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### **Danielle says**

I loved this book! I actually read it to my niece and nephew already because of how great it was, and especially reading it at night time.

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### **Jessica says**

I received this book from the Goodreads giveaway.

This little gem was waiting for me today in the mail. As soon as I opened it, I knew I had a date tonight with this book. It did not disappoint. My only regret is it was over too soon. Which I knew going into the giveaway and when I opened the mail, but I got lost in it and abruptly came back to adulthood at the end.

I don't have a favorite poem in it, but I plan on rereading it again. I also plan on sharing it with my granny (just how many people are going to say that!).

I am so glad I read this book. I highly recommend it.

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### **Kellee says**

Full review at: <http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=5862>

3.5 stars

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Really like the creativity of mashing monster/mythology and nursery rhymes. A great intro to all things traditional lit and fantasy in a rhyming, fun way. I especially liked that the creatures hail from a variety of places and that the author included an appendix that includes information about each of them. I think this book would be a great way to introduce mythology as well as give students an opportunity to make their own parody of a nursery rhyme using a creature.

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## Andie Siegel says

**Title:** *Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes*

**Author:** Henry L. Herz, John Herz

**Illustrator:**

**Genre:** Nursery Rhymes

**Theme(s):** monsters, dark, rhymes

**Opening line/sentence:** Mary Had A Hippogriff

**Brief Book Summary:** This is a collection of nursery rhymes that take a different spin than what we are used to. Instead of the classic characters we are used to, these characters are mythical monsters or other supernatural characters that take the stories in a different direction.

**Professional Recommendation/Review #1:**

Publishers Weekly

01/26/2015

Henry Herz and his sons, Josh and Harrison, offer up supernatural versions of 14 nursery rhymes, including “This Little Hydra,” “Peter Peter Goblin Eater,” and a cadaverous twist on “Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary” (“‘Zombie rotten, quite forgotten,/ How does your graveyard fare?’/ ‘With skulls and bones for steppingstones,/ It’s enough to raise your hair.’?”). Wee Willie Winkie becomes a slinking werewolf who goes “Looking for tardy children to eat,” while “Little Witch Muffet” simply tosses the spider into her cauldron. Larson’s skillfully drafted images feature rich, mossy colors and angular, eerie beasts that are more charming than truly scary. While these sprites, ogres, and harpies are certainly fit for Halloween reading, this distinctive collection deserves to be enjoyed year round. Ages 5–8. (Feb.)

**Professional Recommendation/Review #2:**

Children's Literature - Jean Boreen

We are all familiar with Mother Goose and the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. So what would happen if aspects of these stories were combined with characters from fantasy and mythology? *Monster Goose Nursery Rhymes* is a very fun and creatively illustrated book of new tales. For example, “Little Miss Muffet” and her curds turn into “Little Witch Muffet” who takes the offending spider and throws it into her stew. “Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary” is turned into “Zombie Rotten, Quite Forgotten” who is questioned about his home in the graveyard. The illustrations are sepia-toned and dark, perfect for the tone and feel of this collection. Besides the two mentioned, other fantastical creatures found in this text are hippogriffs, goblins, harpies, brownies, and manticores. The new tales are fun and just a tad bit scary, perfect for a Halloween party at home or school. Reviewer: Jean Boreen, Ph.D.; Ages 6 to 10.

**Response to Two Professional Reviews:** I can only agree with these reviews in that I like the spin that these stories take. They are a fresh new take on what we are used to, since change is usually a good thing. The supernatural characters are not afraid of what their human counterparts are afraid of and they are into different things, which I really like how you see a direct difference between them.

**Evaluation of Literary Elements:** The author uses great detail in trying to keep the stories very similar. But they also are able to keep the same vibe while talking about completely different characters. Even if the story is tweaked so it has a dark undertone, you can still see which nursery rhyme the author has changed it from.

**Consideration of Instructional Application:** I think this book can be very helpful around Halloween time. Although Halloween can be a tough subject in elementary schools, this book can be a good way of simply reading out loud a few supernatural characters. Even if they don't need to be directly correlated with

Halloween, the characters can bring a fun twist to already know classics.

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**Molly Cluff (Library!) says**

Oh my gosh, I need to have kids right now so I can use all these rhymes with them! I was just thinking the other day how I wanted to do unique/cool rhymes with my future kids, and this is exactly what I wanted. Thank you, universe!

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