



Slappy Birthday to You

R.L. Stine

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The evil dummy comes to life to tell his own twisted tales and scary stories!

It's bad enough Ian Barker has to spend his twelfth birthday with his sister and their two annoying cousins. The four of them can't ever hang out without getting into trouble. Vinnie and Jonny always want to play with Ian's stuff. They take extra turns and break everything they touch. Even Ian's new birthday presents are up for grabs. But when Ian gets a Slappy dummy from his dad, things go from bad to worse. When Slappy's in charge, you don't fight over him, he fights over you!

Slappy Birthday to You Details

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From Reader Review Slappy Birthday to You for online ebook

Aleria says

I highly enjoyed this & I hope more come out! I was so happy to listen to Slappy talk. He's one of my favorites in the Goosebumps series. :)

Cassandra, Mother of Satyrs says

Reads like classic Stine, but alas, meh.

I DRM Free says

I've never read a single Goosebumps story. It came out after I was in High School so I never had a reason to read them. But I did work with kids with special needs for a bit and they sometimes enjoyed watching the tv show. I couldn't believe how wooden and terrible the actors were in the show. Just thinking it was terrible kids schlock made on the cheap and the books would have to be far better written then these things are acted out.

Well... I was wrong. This thing was written just like those shows were acted. Almost to a T, down to the wooden terrible lines. I mean I can see why kids would like it because even I enjoyed it by the time it go to the last 3-4 chapters, however every chapter up to that point was like watching one of those terrible tv shows. I'll probably read more of them just because of my profession so I can talk to kids about them, but there is no redeeming value in these for adults.

So for right now, this is my worst rated book I've read so far since starting this reading a book daily. I originally gave it a 3/5 but it has DRM on the book to boot. So it gets a measly 2/5.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Ian's father refurbishes for a living and gives Ian a ventriloquist's dummy for his birthday. His cousins Vinny and Jonny are big bullies who give him a hard time about having a doll and cause some mayhem. Of course, Slappy starts wreaking havoc, and Ian gets blamed for it. Things escalate, and Slappy extracts his vengeance on the evil cousins.

Strengths: There's been a resurgence in interest in the Goosebumps books, due to the movie that came out a couple of years ago, and the fact that the teachers at my school are now younger than most of my clothing and grew up on the books. Have copies that aren't falling apart helps as well. I will definitely purchase.

Weaknesses: There are no shades of gray in Goosebumps books. They are just ridiculous. This must be what the children like about them, but I don't see the attraction.

What I really think: I think that Stine is a good writer who writes not-so-good books. The Lost Girl was particularly good, and I would love for Stine to slow down and write something... not Slappy.

Yaritza says

Mr. Stine knows how to spook even an adult. I just don't like the idea of a talking dummy coming to life let alone a whole bunch of dolls. Another perfectly written story that will scare anyone. Be careful of your next birthday present because it might come to life.

Hew France says

Honestly, out of the four post-Goosebumps 2000 books that center around Slappy (Those being Revenge of the Living Dummy, Slappy New Year!, Son of Slappy, and Slappy Birthday to You), I think I'd have to rank this one as tied for favorite with Slappy New Year. It shook up the formula just a smidge by having more people involved in Slappy's attempts to enslave them, and... I don't know. I just really enjoyed reading this one. It didn't try to hard. The only thing that bothers me is... *Spoiler*

They use the words that bring Slappy to life to put him back to sleep... And I'm pretty certain Stine established in earlier books that those words won't do that.

Carley Adair says

Fantastic story

I loved this book. It was one of the creepiest yet. Some of the pages were missing but I got most of the story.

Amyfier says

I really wanna read it OMG

Richard Denney says

This was a really fun read! I liked how Slappy was a host of sorts, it reminded me very much of Tales From the Crypt and I really liked that. - Richard

Sarah says

REVIEW OF AN ARC FROM SCHOLASTIC.

R.L. Stine is one of my favorite authors, and I loved Goosebumps as a kid and Fear Street as I got older, so I jumped at the chance to read this one. I have to say that I was kind of disappointed in this one, possibly

because I think that Slappy has been taken a bit too far with this new spinoff. He's still pretty true to form Slappy but with a few differences that might just have come from time or from the natural changes that a character goes through as an author writes of him or her.

In my opinion, kids will still enjoy this, but it just can't seem to compare to the original series.

paula says

Thanks to the talents of Joe Fria and Lucien Dodge, Slappy the mad ventriloquist's dummy is more unhinged, terrifying, and ridiculous than ever in this audio edition.

Here's the thing about Goosebumps. The faults that people find with the series are in large part what makes it not only appealing to kids but actually good for them.

Are the books formulaic? Yes. But the formula teaches readers critical skills - they learn to look for the twist, they predict the doofus adult refusing to believe the kid, and they anticipate the double ending.

Are words and phrases repeated in a way that seems ham-handed to the professional reader? Also yes. But these are words like "hurled" - medium vocabulary words that add spice to our reading. Repeating them once or twice ensures that the kid gets the full meaning.

R.L. Stine has written upwards of 250 of these bad boys. You have to imagine he knows what he's doing.

Josiah says

Who would have thought a villain who has already starred in so many books could be a breath of fresh air? In some ways Slappy the ventriloquist dummy is exactly that in this introduction of another Goosebumps sub-series, SlappyWorld. Slappy hosts the story of his latest reign of mayhem, and doesn't limit himself to a few comments before the narrative starts. He intrudes occasionally in the middle when he wants to deliver snide remarks and mean-spirited jokes. Slappy is more powerful than ever, and he's ready to ruin lives after Ian Baker's father gives him to Ian for the boy's twelfth birthday. The dummy was mailed to Ian's father anonymously, and knowing his son's desire to try ventriloquism, he put hours into fixing Slappy up for him. Repairing damaged dolls is his job, and this one wasn't in good shape. But while quarreling with his cousins (Vinny and Jonny) at the birthday party, Ian gets the feeling something's not right about Slappy. There's a legend that Slappy is evil, and comes to life if certain magic words are read over him. Ian isn't sure he wants this doll of dubious origin.

As usual, Slappy proceeds to multiply his mischief by framing the kid who owns him for the nasty stuff he does. Who would believe a wooden dummy is causing trouble? Not Molly, Ian's little sister. No amount of sincerity from Ian can convince her he's not the one harming her refurbished doll, Abigail, and pulling other dirty tricks on the family. Ian's parents don't buy his explanation either, and Vinny and Jonny want revenge on Ian for what Slappy does to them. Ian needs to catch Slappy in the act for anyone to believe him, but the doll's powers have grown dramatically since his first appearance in *Night of the Living Dummy*. Is there any eliminating the wicked little insult comedian?

Slappy Birthday to You has strengths that deserve mention, which make it worth one and a half stars. The tension caused by Slappy's shenanigans is pretty good, though not as intense as the earliest books, when even we weren't sure he was actually alive. The plot lacks logic, but longtime fans will enjoy seeing Slappy in

action. For new fans, I recommend starting with the first two Slappy books from the original Goosebumps series; they were arguably the best, though he was great in the Horrorland sub-series that began in 2008. After so many Slappy books it must be hard to keep readers guessing, but I like seeing him pop up now and then. If he's used to his full potential in the SlappyWorld series, it could be something special.

Justin Tate says

Notable because this is the first Goosebumps I've read with a flashback and point of view switch! The new series rehashes old plots, but I like the Twilight Zone structure with Slappy as our host. I can envision the TV show already!

Derek Garrett says

As a long time Goosebumps fan, I was excited to receive an ARC of this book, the first in a new series! A Goosebumps series centered around the most iconic Goosebumps character, what's not to be excited about?

Unfortunately, after reading this book, I was disappointed. As a Goosebumps fan, I thought this book would have a cool new story that added something new to Slappy. But I think this book is just like every other Slappy book. It seems especially similar to Night of the Living Dummy II.

(view spoiler)

Overall, I don't see this series adding anything new to Goosebumps. However I'll still be reading them and I look forward to Attack of the Jack

Ryan Rotenberg says

I read Slappy irthday to You by R.L. Stine. This book is about a Ian who gets a 'doll' from his dad for his 12th birthday. The doll is a puppet. Ian, his sister and his cousins are going to have a contest to see who's the funniest. When the cousins utter 6 words, the doll comes to life. Slappy creates all sorts of problems for Ian and his family and Ian gets blamed. Now Ian has to figure out how to get Slappy to stop being alive.

I liked this book. I like all of the Goosebumps books. There is always a twist at the end that you don't see coming and I look forward to that. I wouldn't change a thing in this book. I really enjoyed it and look forward to reading the next Slappy one.

I recommend this book for kids over 4th grade. There are some spooky things in it that younger kids might get scared by. Also, kids that like books with surprise endings would like this book.
