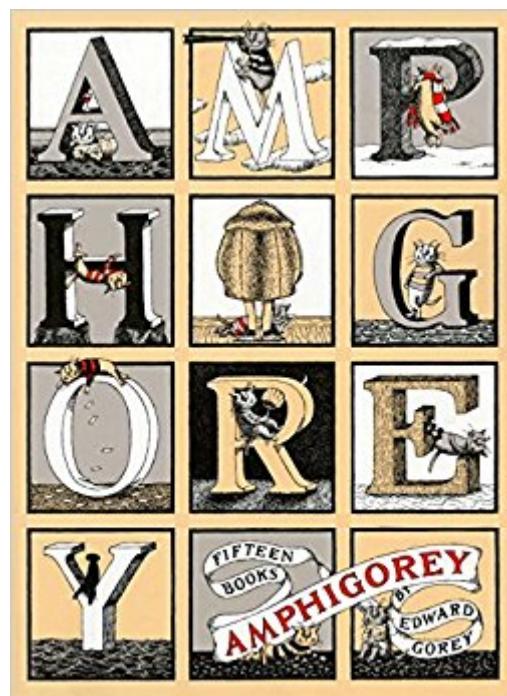


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Amphigorey: Fifteen Books



Synopsis

An illustrated collection of 15 macabre short stories. In this gorgeously detailed volume, American artist and author Edward Gorey accents amphigory (nonsense verse or composition) with his signature cross-hatched pen-and-ink drawings. A mix of poetry and prose, light-hearted and decidedly more morbid storytelling, the book is sure to satisfy both fans of art and lovers of short stories alike. Stories included: "The Unstrung Harp" "The Listing Attic" "The Doubtful Guest" "The Object Lesson" "The Bug Book" "The Fatal Lozenge" "The Hapless Child" "The Curious Sofa" "The Willowdale Handcar" "The Gashlycrumb Tinies" "The Insect God" "The West Wing" "The Wuggly Ump" "The Sinking Spell" "The Remembered Visit"

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons (January 28, 1980)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399504338

ISBN-13: 978-0399504334

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 109 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #40,820 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Literary #86 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips #122 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Fantasy Graphic Novels

Customer Reviews

The title of this deliciously creepy collection of Gorey's work stems from the word amphigory, meaning a nonsense verse or composition. As always, Gorey's painstakingly cross-hatched pen and ink drawings are perfectly suited to his oddball verse and prose. The first book of 15, "The Unstrung Harp," describes the writing process of novelist Mr. Clavius Frederick Earbrass: "He must be mad to go on enduring the unexquisite agony of writing when it all turns out drivel." In "The Listing Attic," you'll find a set of quirky limericks such as "A certain young man, it was noted, / Went about in the heat thickly coated; / He said, 'You may scoff, / But I shan't take it off; / Underneath I am horribly bloated.' " Many of Gorey's tales involve untimely deaths and dreadful mishaps, but much like tragic Irish ballads with their perky rhythms and melodies, they come off as strangely lighthearted. "The Gashlycrumb Tinies," for example, begins like this: "A is for AMY who fell down

the stairs, B is for BASIL assaulted by bears," and so on. An eccentric, funny book for either the uninitiated or diehard Gorey fans.

The stories this anthology contains are in order as follows: The Unstrung Harp, The Listing Attic, The Doubtful Guest, The Object-Lesson, The Bug Book, The Fatal Lozenge, The Hapless Child, The Curious Sofa, The Willowdale Handcar, The Gashlycrumb Tinies, The Insect God, The West Wing, The Wuggly Ump, The Sinking Spell, and The Remembered Visit. I bought this book knowing it would be great, but it would have been nice if I knew which stories it contained. Perhaps this information is in a place where I did not notice it and my post here is redundant, but in any case, here it is.

The first of four collections of the -- often miniature -- works of the inimitable and eccentric Edward Gorey. Gorey pretty much made a successful career out of being an eccentric. Reclusive, a nearly obsessive fan of ballet, sneakered and fur-coat garbed, and with a house full of cats, his graphic art and illustrated poetry projected such an oddly distinctive ambience that many people thought that he was either British and/or had lived and died in the late Victorian age. In fact, he was American born and raised, lived from 1925 - 2000, hardly ever traveled far from his New England home, and was a dedicated follower of the soap operas on daytime television. In his early career, in the 1950s, he self-published a number of (literally) small single-work volumes which he wrote and illustrated himself. These volumes sport such interesting titles as "The Unstrung Harp," "The Doubtful Guest," "The Listing Attic," and "The Curious Sofa." Much of his work has a slightly uneasy macabre cast to it, frequently with morbid outcomes, although any violence is nearly always suggestive rather than outright. Since his death many of these small books have been re-released in modern, UPC adorned editions, and the original limited editions have been known to fetch some significant collectors' prices. The "Amphigory" books are collections of several of these short pieces into single larger volumes, with the "Amphigory" volume, containing 15 works, being the first of these. This, along with two other collections:.. "Amphigory, Too" .. "Amphigory Also" ... were published during Gorey's lifetime. The fourth volume, "Amphigory Again" is a posthumous collection of his work. The volumes are not connected in any way other than all being Gorey's work, and may be enjoyed independently, and in any order. If you are a Gorey enthusiast, you probably already own either this volume, or at least editions of several of the short works therein. If not, you should purchase one, posthaste. On the other hand, if you are unfamiliar with, but curious about Gorey and his work, this is a recommended first acquisition. You may or may not find it a little creepy; either way, you may also

find yourself curiously emeshed in the world of Mr. Earbrass, fantods, and the Doubtful Guest, in which case you should certainly run out and buy the other three "Amphigory" volumes. You will almost have to. :)

This is a fine collection of Edward Gorey's works. These books were published between 1953 and 1965 when Gorey was still quite young. They are for both the old and young (although it's best to read them yourself first) and contain stories and verse of what he always referred to as nonsense. There is more than a bit of dark matter here- one of the books goes through the ABC's of how different children die- but I remember that my older brother found it hilarious when we were little. Go figure. The art is what made me purchase this book. Gorey's pen and ink drawings are overwhelmingly gothic in nature and the shape of his characters, their expressions, backgrounds and the bizarre happenings are fascinating. I remember being surprised when I found out that he was American rather than British because his artwork always reminded me of old Victorian art. Between his art and his obviously vivid imagination, he must have been quite a man.

I love Edward Gorey. His books are a little dark and twisted, like myself :) So when I saw this book with 15 of his books I knew Santa had to get this to me. While some of the books would be ok for some older kids there is one story in particular that is very adult themed. NOT FOR CHILDREN. It's an awesome book with some of my favorites in it and a couple that I was unfamiliar with. His art is always great. This book is great for those who would like to see more of Edward Gorey than just once a week for a couple of months on Masterpiece Mystery on PBS.

This book was on my wish list and it was accidentally ordered when my phone kind of freaked out. But I call it fate and kept it. I was going to order it just not so soon. But I love Edward Gorey. I can't wait to get the other collections. I've had this book twice before and they always end up missing. That's how much I love this book. It arrived pretty quick. Thank you.

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