



The Hunting of the Snark

Lewis Carroll

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*They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care;
They pursued it with forks and hope;
They threatened its life with a railway-share;
They charmed it with smiles and soap.*

Lewis Carroll's magnificent nonsense poem The Hunting of the Snark features an unlikely cast of characters drawn from the Jabberwocky in Through the Looking Glass. This irresistible version is illustrated, and has an introduction by, Chris Riddell.

This is a luxury edition with both black and white and colour artwork, ribbon marker and metallic blue sprayed edges.

It was first published by Macmillan in 1876.

The Hunting of the Snark Details

Date : Published by Adamant Media Corporation (first published April 16th 1876)

ISBN : 9781402186233

Author : Lewis Carroll

Format : Paperback 27 pages

Genre : Poetry, Classics, Fantasy, Fiction, Childrens, Humor

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beautifully and nimbly handled without sacrificing the humor or the nonsense.

My version has Martin Gardner's annotations which are helpful, but not necessary. Nonsense isn't supposed to make sense!

I highly recommend this book for adults, children, and pets. It is one of my favorite books that I've re-read several dozen times.

(Added note: Boris Karloff has an excellent reading of this that is available on Amazon as a download. I highly recommend it. He does a wonderful job capturing the spirit of the poem. And it's only 99 cents!)

Petya Kokudeva says

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Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

Absolute nonsense, which is to be expected with Carroll. I love how his writing brings me back to being a kid again. Obviously loved it!

Shaina says

The rhyme and verse are very pleasing. I like L.C. with his wide-grinning cats that disappear, jabberwocky, bandersnatch, and all, and so now it is on to this mysterious creature.

I had to reread the last part a few times, but it seems this creature has a special ability not mentioned. Some are perfectly safe in its company and some, are not.

Mark says

Another book I picked up at the Tate last week in Liverpool. More of the Tove Jansson nostalgic illustrations and a beautiful edition which sat happily in my hands last night as I read it aloud in bed. Thank God I live alone. The wonderful tumble of Carroll's rhythmic pulsing verse is such fun to burble out and some of the verses made me smile out loud

'He thought of his childhood, left far far behind-

That blissful and innocent state-
The sound so exactly recalled to his mind
A pencil that squeaks on a slate!

or

'the method employed I would gladly explain,
while i have it so clear in my head,
If i had but the time and you had but the brain -
But much yet remains to be said'

Pure nonsense poetry would not satisfy me for a very long time but then it is never supposed to but this is a fun stopping off point between books of more mind taxing sense or more genuine sadness.

Kyley? says

"They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care;
They pursued it with forks and hope;
They threatened it's life with railway-share;
They charmed it with smiles and soap."

This book was so fun!! It definitely reminded me of Alice in wonderland which is awesome because it's one of my favorites!

I really enjoyed this and I'm so happy that I am reading more of Carroll's work!

Kaethe says

Not this particular edition (which is cooler than the first one I read). I c9llected various Carroll editions, so actually, I don't know which one I fell in love with first.

Manny says

*"You must read this book!" the Reviewer cried,
As he searched for a suitable rhyme
But as long as he stole more than half of the words
He was sure he would get there in time.*

The rest of this review is available elsewhere (the location cannot be given for Goodreads policy reasons)

Fran says

Just did a dramatic reading of this for my cat. As you do. She curled up and went to sleep. Compliment?

I absolutely adore this poem, and when this edition caught my eye on the shelf while doing some tidying I felt it was time for another reading. I'd love to record this to video someday, so I consider reading it aloud for my cat as rehearsal. Yeah.

Trish says

Lewis Carroll doesn't really need an introduction. Having brought us the fantastic world of **Alice in Wonderland** and its sequel, he is not only one of the most well-known authors of classic children's literature, but must have been one of the most inventive and imaginative people on the planet.

Apart from his novels, he also wrote this poem. I must admit to not having known about it. It was during my visit to Munich where I met Chris Riddell that I found out about **The Hunting of the Snark** since this pretty little edition was illustrated by the Children's Laureate (his publisher, Macmillan, has been Carroll's publisher so I think that is how this project came about) and some of the illustrations were shown in Munich.

The poem is about a merry and very quirky band of people hunting for the elusive Snark.

*They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care;
They pursued it with forks and hope;
They threatened its life with a railway-share;
They charmed it with smiles and soap.*

They aren't really equipped for the job, there's lots of silliness and downright nonsense (signature Carroll) but all in good fun and beautiful rhymes. After seven "fits" we come to a somewhat abrupt and weird ending.

But that's the greatest thing about Carroll: there is no limit to one's imagination and he wants you to use it ALL.

As Dr. Seuss once said: "I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells."

This poem definitely does just that with all the different characters, places and ideas that were mixed together here.

Carola says

Desconocía la existencia de este libro/poema. La edición que leí incluía en la parte final un anexo de cartas muy informativo. Me gustó saber cómo se gestó las aventuras de Alicia en la cabeza del autor (me sorprendió saber que Carroll era meticuloso como yo). Algo que me chocó bastante, y me dio mucho pudor y un poco de 'guálaca', fue la forma en que Lewis se refería a sus 'amiguitas', niñas de menos de 10 años, pues lo hacía con tanta pasión e idealización que tendría mucho sentido si es que -como se muestra en un documental de la BBC- era un pedófilo (no confundir con pederasta. Pedofilia: atracción erótica o sexual que una persona adulta siente hacia niños o adolescentes / Pederastia: abuso sexual cometido con niños.).

Cuando la verdadera Alicia de carne y hueso cuenta de que su madre le rompió todas las cartas que Carroll le había mandado cuando aún ella era una niña, enseguida pensé 'mmmmmm' y me dieron ñañas. Aunque no se sabe qué pasó, hubo un quiebre entre la familia de Alicia y el diácono (no era reverendo, aunque así se le

trataba) y yo sospecho que algo grave sucedió. El equipo de investigación de la BBC, que revisó acuciosamente material de archivo de Carroll que había quedado en el olvido, "descubrió una fotografía que muestra a la hermana mayor de Alicia, Lorina, completamente desnuda y en una postura indecorosa. La imagen fue descubierta en un museo francés y en ella aparece una inscripción en la que se atribuye su autoría a Lewis Carroll". Yo sospecho que por ahí anda la cosa, eso pudo haber generado la ira de la madre y el quiebre definitivo con los padres de Alicia.

Dejando ese "detallito" aparte, solo puedo decir que las historias sinsentido, ridículas y/o estúpidas -pero bien contadas- me encantan.

Florescia says

Well, I gave TV a chance today. However, I found *Titanic*, *Terminator 3*, reality shows and other stuff, so, those aren't real options for me. I have no sitcoms to watch right now. Although, I'm kind of tired of watching the same sitcoms/tv series all the time. There's nothing new now. *Once Upon a Time* is on, so that's a good background sound. What to do on a Saturday afternoon? Yes. Let's find something out of the ordinary to read. And what did I find? A brilliant, typical Carroll nonsense poem. I loved it. Such a unique and fascinating work, full of wit, mystery and absurdity. A bunch of weird men go to find an even weirder creature called Snark. Among those men, we have a Bellman, a Boots, a Barrister, a Broker, a Beaver, a Butcher who only can kill beavers and even a guy who forgot his name!

He would answer to "Hi!" or to any loud cry,
Such as "Fry me!" or "Fritter my wig!"
To "What-you-may-call-um!" or "What-was-his-name!"
But especially "Thing-um-a-jig!"

Well, I think it's funny, don't judge me. It's also amusing the way the Snark it's described. It seems we may have met a couple of Snarks in our lives.

The third is its slowness in taking a jest.
Should you happen to venture on one,
It will sigh like a thing that is deeply distressed:
And it always looks grave at a pun.

I know I did!

Anyway, after reading this poem (it has beautiful illustrations, too), I started to search for meanings, a classic "What the hell did I just read?" kind of questions. So this journey doesn't end with the last verse.

There are a couple of references from another poem written by Carroll, *Jabberwocky*, published in his novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*, which I read years ago. I re-read it and it made me want to read the whole novel again! And no, there's no shame in that. 'Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again', another Lewis said. I never stopped reading those, anyway.

Jan 11, 14

* Also on my blog.

