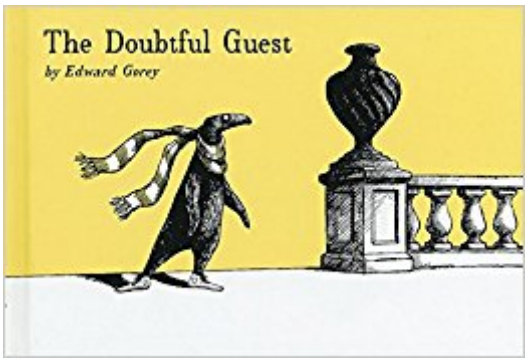
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The Doubtful Guest



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Synopsis

A vaguely sinister comedy of manners by beloved artist Edward GoreyÃ Â Told in a set of fourteen rhyming couplets, The Doubtful Guest is the story of a solemn, mysterious, outdoor creature, dressed rather ordinarily in sneakers and a scarf, who appears on a winter night at a family's Victorian home and never leaves again. Gorey's eerie and charming illustrations accompany the verses, making this an enjoyably strange (and strangely enjoyable) read for all ages.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.3 x 4.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 83 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #72,236 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÃ Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Art of Comics and Manga #22 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Limericks & Humorous Verse #189 inÃ Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips

Customer Reviews

Originally published in 1957, The Doubtful Guest serves as a prime example of the beauty, eccentricity, and brilliance of Edward Gorey's work. If the book was read aloud without revealing the accompanying black-and-white drawings, you might guess the tale came from the quirky genius of Dr. Seuss. The rhyming couplets and nonsensical verse (about an even more nonsensical creature) feel familiar, but in Gorey's skilled hands, the experience becomes altogether new. The doubtful guest shows up unannounced and unwelcome, yet its presence is accepted after only a brief interlude of screaming. The staid, pale, Victorian inhabitants of the mansion alternately stare and glare at the doubtful guest as it tears out whole chapters from books, peels the soles of its white canvas shoes, and broods while lying on the floor ("inconveniently close to the drawing-room door"). Strangely, or rather, typically, as this is a Gorey book, the stymied occupants never ask the guest to leave--and in 17 years it has still "shown no intention of going away." Maintaining a matter-of-fact tone in spite of true oddity is pure, delicious Gorey, and his trademark drawings are not to be missed. The ghostly, stark, and undeniably amusing illustrations make The Doubtful Guest an

entrancing tale in which reserved, insular lives meet with the unexpected and bizarre. (Ages 5 and older) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Edward Gorey (1925-2000) wrote and illustrated such popular books as The Doubtful Guest, The Gashlycrumb Tinies, and The Headless Bust. He was also a very successful set and costume designer, earning a Tony Award for his Broadway production of Edward Gorey’s Dracula. Animated sequences of his work have introduced the PBS series Mystery! since 1980.

"Quirky" barely begins to describe the work of Edward Gorey who, for much of his productive life was suspected of being Victorian, British, or dead. Gorey (who passed away in 2000) was none of these, but he did very much create his own world, and "The Doubtful Guest" is as good a place as any to begin exploring it. His work is a little difficult to describe in words other than his own. Some idea of the content may be gleaned from the diminutive scarved and sneakered furry creature on the cover, and this line from the end of the story:"It came seventeen years ago, and to this day, it has shown no intention of going away."Enjoy.

Ã Â "The Doubtful Guest" is a story of an odd looking creature in "white canvas shoes" making an appearance one wild winter night. Written in couplets, this rhyming book is fun to read as it is entertaining. Each illustration depicts the guest in a strangely interesting situation. Where did this creature come from and when will it leave?! No one knows. If you like this style of book, check out this new fairytale about a little girl and a haunted house:Ã Â The Stumps of Flattop Hill

Given as a gift, it was a big hit with the one who got it. I’d say that is a very excellent thing. And the illustrations, also by Edward Gorey, have their own wonderful charm and fun.

Classic 1950s Edward Gorey. I’ve given this book to many people as a gift. I work with people with IDDs and the book can easily be viewed as a commentary on these individuals, although I read that Mr. Gorey’s intention may have been a commentary on immigrants. In any case an amazingly fun wandering.

Love the story and illustrations. My grand daughter loves the macabre humor!

It is a weird book that obviously inspired Tim Burton as a child.

This is a charming story of a questionable character who appears out of nowhere and endears "it"self by simply being itself: odd, personable, quirky, and tenacious. The pen and ink drawings by Edward Gorey are impeccable (his formal training at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago lasted only one year), showing a natural gift for precision and imagination; they are used exclusively as signatures of the PBS series "Mystery." The Victorian/Edwardian theme creates another world, placing the reader in the late 19th, early 20th century of elegance and propriety, making the mysterious appearance of this peculiar "Doubtful Guest" even more peculiar. The fact that Mr. Gorey created these drawings and the story they tell in 1957 is testimony to its timeless, endearing, enduring quality.

I’m a big Gorey fan, as is my good chum, whom I bought the book for a small house gift. She loved it.

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