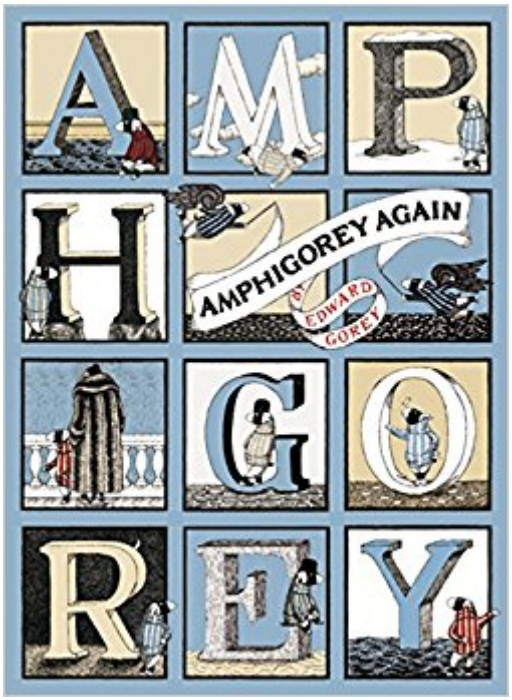
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Amphigorey Again



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Synopsis

This collection displays in glorious abundance the offbeat characters and droll humor of Edward Gorey. Figbash is acrobatic, topiaries are tragic, hippopotami are admonitory, and galoshes are remorseful in this celebration of a unique talent that never fails to delight, amuse, and confound.Ã Â Amphigorey Again contains previously uncollected work and two unpublished storiesÃ¢â ¬â •"The Izzard Book," a quirky riff on the letter Z , and "La Malle Saignante," a bilingual homage to early French silent serial movies. Rough sketches and unfinished panels show an ironic and singular mind at work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps only Edward Lear is the late Edward Gorey’s peer among writer-artists. Lear considered himself an artist first, and Gorey thought of himself more as a writer. Yet Lear seemingly put greater effort into the texts; Gorey, into the pictures. Lear’s drawings often look tossed-off, whereas Gorey’s are dense patchworks of tiny patterns, before which his Edwardian personae and fanciful creatures disport, and into which, sometimes, they visually sink. Lear addressed children first; Gorey, adults; but both appeal to anyone with a taste for morbid absurdity. But for its much greater childishness, Lear’s sublime "The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went round the World" could be one of Gorey’s tales of addled travel, such as "The Headless Bust" in this final omnibus, after Amphigorey (1972), Amphigorey Too (1975), and Amphigorey Also (1983), of Gorey’s work. There is less of Gorey at his best here, and some that seems or plainly is incomplete. Still, Gorey’s unique talent should be represented as completely as possible in every collection of American art and literature.

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PRAISE FOR EDWARD GOREY"A master of a genre of graphic storytelling [and] a brilliant draftsman."--The New York Times Book Review"Dark masterpieces of surreal morality . . . Beautifully depicted."--Vanity Fair

Amphigorey Again is the fourth, and possibly last, anthology of works by American author and artist Edward St. John Gorey (1925-2000). Picking up where the previous anthology Amphigorey Also (1983) left off, Amphigorey Again reaches as far back as 1968 with the inclusion of The Other Statue and Categor y in 1974, at the same time encompassing the last of Gorey's work with The Headless Bust (1999).What lies within? The Galoshes of Remorse, a periodical illustration Signs of Spring, a newspaper feature Seasonal Confusion, a newspaper feature Random Walk, a newspaper feature Categor y, trade publication Bibliophile (unlisted pen and ink and watercolor illustration) The Other Statue, trade publication 10 Impossible Objects (abridged), pen and ink illustrations The Universal Solvent (abridged), privately published ScÃƒÂ¨nes de Ballet, privately published postcards Verse Advice, a newspaper feature The Deadly Blotter: Thoughtful Alphabet XVII, privately published Creativity, a periodical pen and ink illustration The Retrieved Locket, privately published The Water Flowers, trade publication The Haunted Tea-Cozy, trade publication Christmas Wrap-Up, a pen and ink and watercolor illustration The Headless Bust, trade publication The Just Dessert: Thoughtful Alphabet XI, privately published The Admonitory Hippopotamus, a previously unpublished work Neglected Murderesses, privately published postcards TragÃƒÂ©dies Topiaries, privately published postcards The Raging Tide, trade publication The Unknown Vegetable, privately published Random Walk, a newspaper feature Serious Life: A Cruise, a newspaper feature Figbash Acrobate, privately published La Malle Saignante, a previously unpublished work The Izzard Book, by Mrs. Regera Dowdy, a previously unpublished workTwo previously unpublished works, The Admonitory Hippopotamus and The Izzard Book, are supposedly unfinished. The other unpublished work, La Malle Saignante is wonderfully conceived and realized; I wonder why it never made it to the bookshelves. But it is The Admonitory Hippopotamus I am especially fond. A compact epic, a touching and vivid portrayal, it is all text. Originally announced in the first Amphigorey back in 1972, I always kept a third eye out for its debut. Though it lacks illustrations, I easily let my mind cast the parts of Angelica and Sneezby with Gorey demoiselles and hippo in the manner of The Nursery Frieze (1964) - and am pleased as punch it's included.The

newspaper and periodical features are satisfying treasures. Unless one was diligently clipping NY Times Magazine and NY Times Book Review and the like, one would've missed most of these. These seasonal limericks and short stories remind me how versatile Gorey was with the English, and occasionally French, languages. His Dogear Wryde postcard series, like TragÃƒÂ©dies Topiaries, are strong examples of Gorey's ability to tell stories in a similarly abbreviated medium, nearly all resemble well-articulated storyboards.Amphigorey Again can also be called The Colorful Compendium - it has twelve works in full spectrum Gorey palette. Works in color previously appeared only once in the first anthology, twice in the third. The twelve works in this volume vary wildly in range and palette, but I find Gorey's subdued tints very nicely done, especially in Galoshes and Random Walk.But what I really like are the acres of black & white, pen & ink hatching & cross-hatching - and Gorey went to town in La Malle Saignante. Its story could have fallen from a Louis Feuillade notebook, but the artwork is thick with Gorey's graphic motifs used in earlier works like The West Wing (1963) and The Gilded Bat (1966). The density of hatch & x-hatch, if measured in strokes-per-inch, seems as painful as it is beautiful to regard. One can only hope Gorey enjoyed creating these as much as we enjoy soaking them in. Like so many other Edward Gorey classics, the closer one looks, the more one is drawn in. " The hippopotamus peered out at her from behind the altar. `Fly at once!' he said. `All is discovered.' " -- from The Admonitory Hippopotamus: or, Angelica and SneezbyG Emil,[...]

As a lover of Gorey, I had to get the latest installment of the Amphigorey series. Like the others, the artwork is amazing, the stories dark, fun, and a joy to read. I have to say, I don't think it's as good as the others, but worth picking up nonetheless.

Amaphigorey Again contains 28 late (or mature phase?) works by Edward Gorey. Personally, I prefer his early and middle period creations, when he had not allowed his indulgence in his own idiosyncrasies to reach epic proportions. Some late works I find hard to relate to, despite my taste for high weirdness. Case in point: "The Raging Tide: or, The Black Doll's Imbroglio," with utterly no explanation of who the various beings involved are or why the events mostly take place in and around giant statues of thumbs. (The Black Doll's only appearance is on the cover art).Two of the works, "10 Impossible Objects" and "The Universal Solvent" are listed as abridged. I found the alphabetical works, "The Deadly Blotter" and "The Just Deserts" also missing pages, although I don't know if this was Gorey's doing, or if the folks at Harcourt discovered there weren't enough pages in the projected book to reproduce every last image and made cuts. Or requested Gorey to

make cuts.

As to be expected, most absurd!

The stories in other editions, Amphigorey and Amphigorey Too, were much better in my opinion, but the illustrations are fun.

Thrilled that there is another one! Love his work, was afraid this was just collected junk, but it is quality!

Just as good as the others

Great book

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