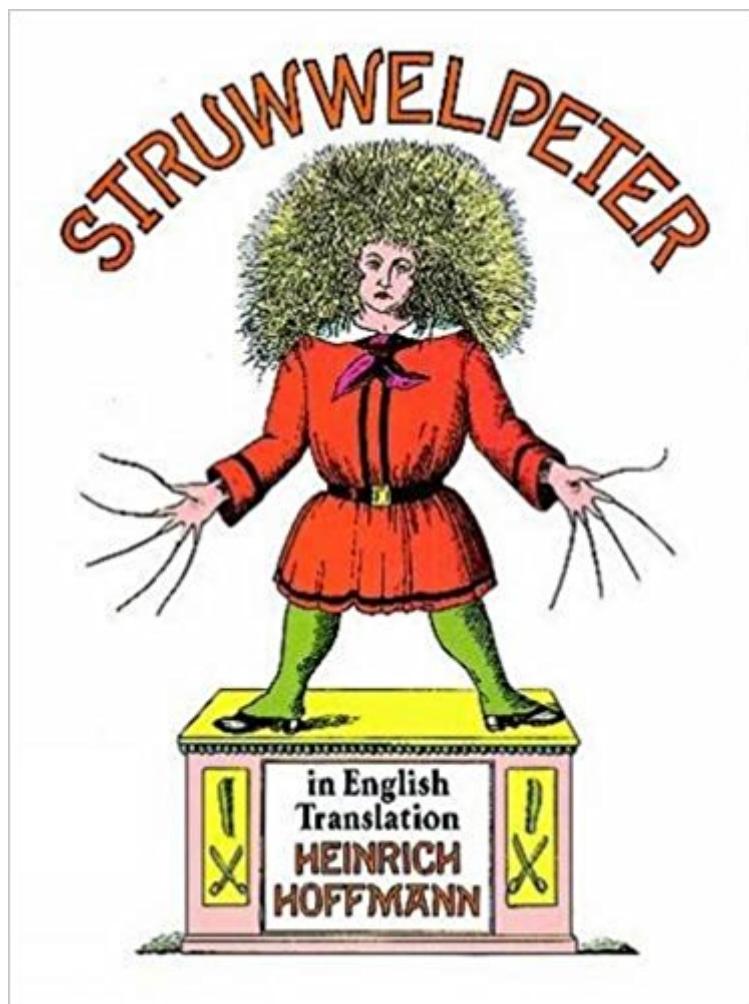


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Struwwelpeter In English Translation (Dover Children's Classics)



Synopsis

First published in 1845. *Struwwelpeter* (variously translated as "slovenly" or "shock-headed" Peter) has become widely recognized as one of the most popular and influential children's books ever written. Heinrich Hoffmann was a Frankfurt physician. Unhappy with the dry and pedagogic books available for children at the time, he wrote and illustrated *Struwwelpeter* as a Christmas present for his three-year-old son. The book relates in verse and pictures the often gruesome consequences that befall children who torment animals, play with matches, suck their thumbs, refuse to eat, fidget at meals, etc. Written in rhyming couplets and illustrated by the author, the book was an immediate success. It has since gone through hundreds of editions and been published in almost every European language. The present volume reprints 25 color plates from a German edition (including a bonus plate done for the 100th edition in 1876) with the reset text of a standard English translation. Also included are the full German text and an afterword with a brief biography of the author and note on how the book came to be written. Children, bibliophiles, antiquarians — any lover of time-honored tales for children — will welcome this new edition of the classic German story.

Book Information

Series: Dover Children's Classics

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; New edition edition (April 7, 1995)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (108 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #69,988 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > European > German #96 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Nursery Rhymes #896 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 8 - 14 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Customer Reviews

My mother & I were both raised on this book. It didn't scare us because the horrid, nasty things were all happening to children who were being particularly bad, and the so-called violence was as

unrealistic as the witch eating Hansel & Gretel. Even a small child can distinguish these "tall tales" from reality. I will admit, that we grew up to be particularly law-abiding adults. Maybe there is a connection.

I read this little gem in 4th grade--my best friend stumbled across it somehow and showed it to me and we were both fascinated and disgusted (and a little frightened) by the stories and, more directly, by the charmingly rustic drawings. The now infamous story of Little Suck-a-Thumb made us both very relieved that we were, neither one, thumb-suckers. (the Red Long-Legged Scissor Man haunts me to this day...such a vivid and menacing figure, doncha think?) With Augustus--many modern women wish it were so easy to "become a little string". And as far as Harriet and the matches--I only wish my kitties would cry for me as Harriet's did...But I recommend this book heartily for adults who love the grim aspects of the Grimm fairy tales and anyone who liked the any Victorian/Edwardian "fairy stories" as a child (the original "Little Black Sambo" is another good vintage child's book...anyone reading it will see the racial aspects of the book are virtually non-existent. It only makes me hungry for pancakes!). Parental cautions? I am buying this for not only me but for my 7-month-old daughter. As to whether she will get to read it or not...well, I dunno. I think I will also buy a copy of "Peter Rabbit" as well. Mr MacGregor is a little less scary than the nasty red-long-legged Scissor Man.

When I "Looked inside" the book the pictures were in color and much the way that I remember them. When I received the actual book I was sorely disappointed. The pictures were not in color, and the text is basically a photocopy. The most disturbing aspect is that the pictures have been broken up and when they are put together on a page they don't line up with each other. Part of the picture is small and part of the picture is large. A very disappointing copy of a wonderful book. I got better pictures and text for free when I went on the Guggenheim website and downloaded the book in color.

It's hard not to burst into xenophobic raptures when contemplating this bizarre little book. I mean, where else could a children's book of such an austere and humourless moral tone have originated than nineteenth century Germany? Have you heard the story of Harriet who played with matches? She BURNS TO DEATH! What should happen to naughty Conrad who sucks his thumbs when his mother isn't looking? The Long Legged Scissor Man leaps out of a door and CUTS HIS THUMBS OFF WITH A HUGE PAIR OF SHEARS, OF COURSE! And what of Augustus, who wouldn't eat his

soup? HE STARVES TO DEATH! Naturally! The only thing more ghastly than reading this to your lovely child as she or he is tucked up in bed is reading it in the original German: fear not if you don't understand German; in fact it's even better that way: far more scary! And all illustrated in the most grotesque fashion, sure to surprise, delight and permanently derange even the most pleasantly disposed child. Well, it never did me any harm... Olly Buxton

I am 27 years old, and this and Max & Moritz are two of only a handful of items I have still retained from the earliest of my childhood. My real mother is German, and had these books and passed them down to my sister and I. She'd read these books to us many a time. It never scared me, but it truly fascinated me and taught me a lot about the concept of consequences at an early age. Is it extreme? Most definitely. The book was written during extreme times. It definitely doesn't offer any neo-psychological "positive reinforcement". This book is grim, and meant to teach children about moral character. I admire that in a day where even adults can't even speak to each other plainly. No beating around the bush here. My favorite part was the scissor guy, come to lop the thumbs off of a thumb-sucking child, after having been warned by his mother to stop the thumb-sucking. While living in Alabama, my step-mother had an uncle who lost a piece of his index finger. His story? He was picking his nose, and a "booger" bit off a chunk of his finger. Good lesson in not picking one's nose. That must have been 1986. Some lessons are timeless.

Ever wonder what early German television programs for children must have been like? A bit of the Grimm brothers, with a dash of Weimar dada and a big dose of the unintentionally sick humor of the classic *Struwwelpeter* by today's standards. This is a classic on some level, not sure where or what. It is not that unusual a children's book when compared to other mid-Victorian attempts at the moral edification of youth. Perhaps a fear of the wages of infantile sins consisting of thumb sucking, poor grooming, cruelty, matches and finicky eaters would help with some of the childish monsters many parents raise today. I have a dream to place copies of *Struwwelpeter* in every waiting room in America for the kiddies enjoyment. Maybe the injections & dental drills will not seem so bad after all. Herr Hoffman, we thank you for disturbing innocent lullaby land with the dark creatures dwelling in the deep shadowy Tuetonic forests from whence you sprang, an unsung hero to real family values. I guarantee you cannot pick up this book without giggling. Enjoy & sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite...

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