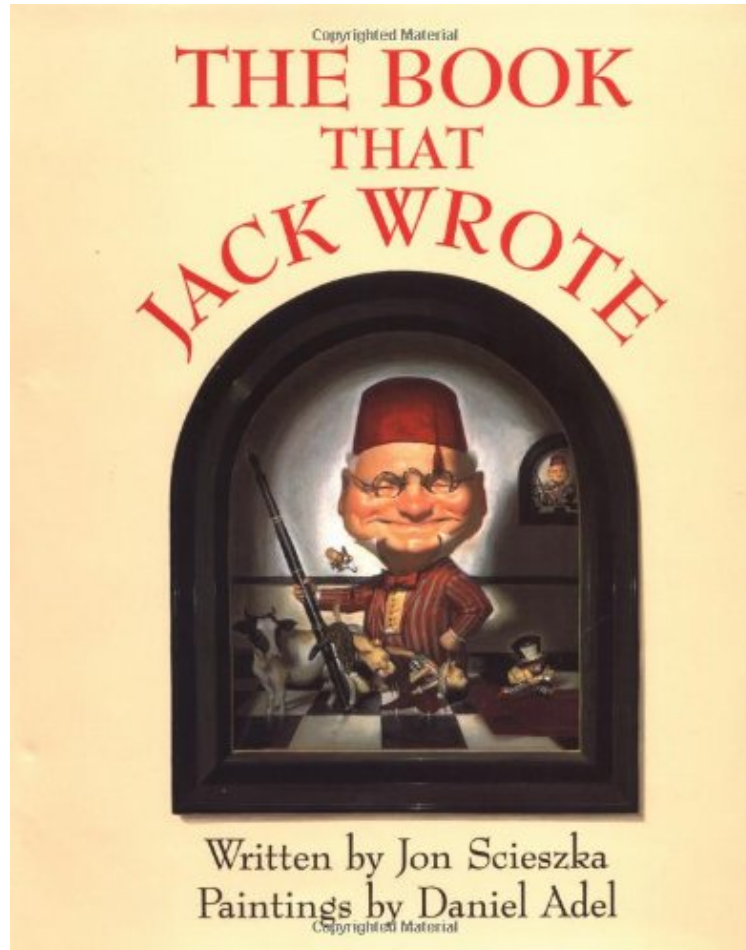


(Mobile library) The Book that Jack Wrote

The Book that Jack Wrote

Jon Scieszka

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#813255 in Books Viking Juvenile 1994-10-01 1994-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.76 x .44 x 8.96l, #File Name: 067084330X32 pages | File size: 76.Mb

Jon Scieszka : The Book that Jack Wrote before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book that Jack Wrote:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By PBGreat for comparison to The House That Jack Built!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved the Stinky Cheese Man, not so impressed with this By amberg
I bought this because my son loved The Stinky Cheese Man, this book was not quite as engaging. The artwork was a little dull. Would not recommend.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for elementary kids By HappyCow
This is a great book. I read it to 4th graders and they ate it up. Jon Scieszka does it again.

This book is about a Rat, a Cat, a Cow over the moon, and a Baby humming a tune. It's about what the Bug did to the rug. It's about how the Egg fell off the wall. It's about the crazy mayhem that can occur when nursery rhymes go awry. Children and adults alike will enjoy reading this book over and over. "This one will wow even the most

sophisticated." --Kirkus Reviews, pointer review "Clever, madcap text. A twisted treat in rhyme and pictures." -- Children's Book Review Service Jon Scieszka is the author of many books for children, including the Caldecott Honor Book *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!*, the *Time Warp Trio* series, and most recently *Math Curse*. Daniel Adel is an illustrator whose work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

From Publishers Weekly Scieszka (*The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*) and Adel lend a few demented twists to familiar nursery verse in this puzzlesome but polished yarn. As in the "House That Jack Built," a cause-and-effect chain is steadily built ("This is the Cat / That ate the Rat / . . . That lay in the book that Jack wrote"). Adel, whose illustrations have appeared in the *New York Times* , contributes bizarre but virtuosic paintings that evoke *Alice in Wonderland* by way of Francis Bacon. His Cat, for instance, has unsettlingly human teeth and a wide Cheshire grin from which dangles the unfortunate Rat's tail; a Hatter a la John Tenniel shows up later. Adel's sophisticated compositions, set against white ground, incorporate picture frames that give each portrait a 3-D, lifelike quality. Scieszka's detached narrative seems straightforward at first, but gets weirder as the passage of time goes out-of-whack. When, at the conclusion, a "book that Jack wrote" falls on and flattens a Man, the Man's feet protrude from beneath the book--but those feet were present from the story's first page. Readers who require logic will be stymied; those who appreciate near-Victorian oddities and Escher-like conundrums will tumble right in. Ages 5-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *School Library Journal* Grade 1-6-An updated version of "This Is the House That Jack Built," this cumulative tale tells of a blind rat who falls into a picture in the book that Jack wrote, thus setting off a chain of events in which the players are done in one by one until nothing is left but the book itself. The characters are borrowed largely from children's literature--a grinning Cheshiresque cat, a cow jumping over the moon, a pieman at the fair, Humpty Dumpty, and the Mad Hatter--but they bear only a passing resemblance to their traditional forms. Cynical expressions followed by looks of terror are the order of the day as each character meets its fate. The text initially follows the rhythm of the original rhyme; however, as it progresses, the meter changes and the cadence becomes somewhat jarring. The dark tones of Adel's full-page oil paintings are a fine match for the irreverent mood of the piece. The humor comes from their surreal quality--distorted bodies sport extremely large heads. Not for the timid, they portray a cow's pronounced udder hovering over the dog's head, a baby getting "beaned" with a pie, and a man with a sadistic grin happily smashing an annoying bug. Featuring an even more twisted brand of humor than Scieszka's *The Stinky Cheese Man* (Viking, 1992), this work will serve as a fine introduction to parody for young creative writers. Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, Wheeler School, Providence, RI Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Gr. 2-4. You can't fault the art in this cumulative story. Though he paints with almost photographic precision, Adel offers pictures that could never appear in any photo--a Cheshire cat dressed in a Pirandello costume, a baby tossing a cow over the moon. The rhyme itself is a takeoff on "The House That Jack Built": "This is the Picture that lay in the Book that Jack wrote. This is the rat, that fell into the picture . . ." etc. The surrealistic images include a nattily dressed dog staring up at the udder of a cow as it sails over the moon, and old Jack himself in bow tie and fez getting flattened by the very book that he wrote. The audience for this is older than the picture-book set, despite the singsongy rhyme. It is school-age kids who will be caught up in the whimsy and enjoy the technical skill of the pictures (and details like the rat's tail hanging out of the cat's mouth). Ilene Cooper