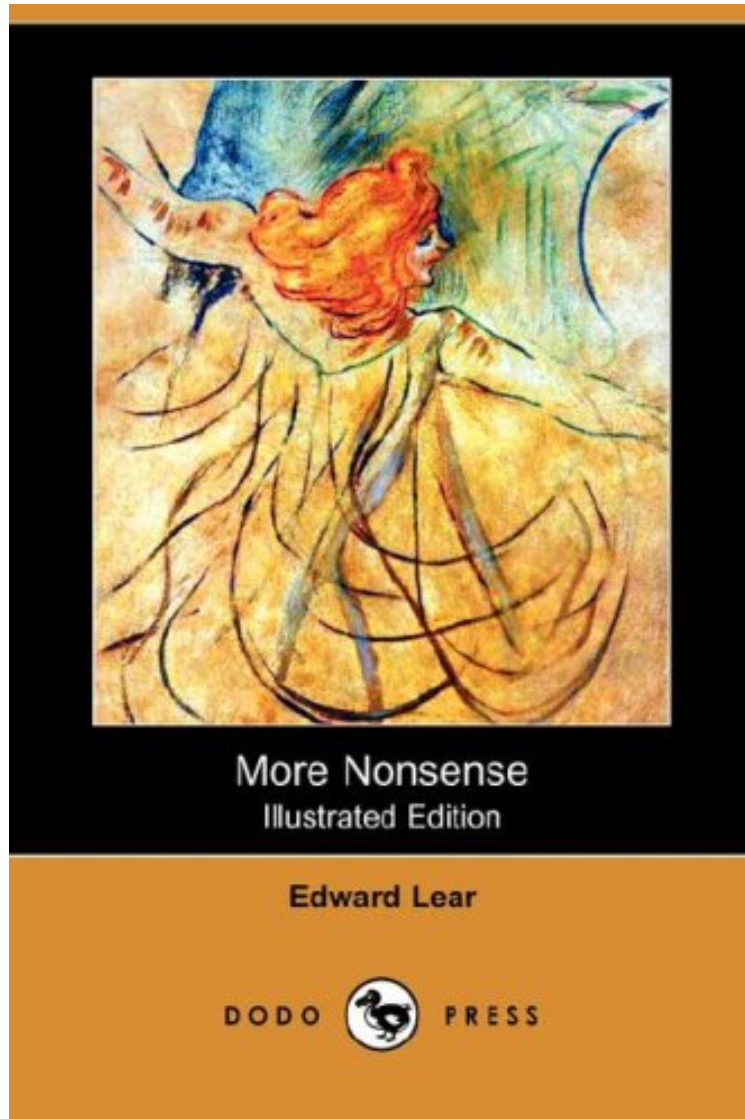


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Edward Lear

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Edward Lear (1812-1888) was an English artist, illustrator and writer known for his literary nonsense, in poetry and prose, and especially his limericks, a form which he popularised. At the age of 19 his first Illustrated work Family of Psittacidae; or, Parrots was published in 1830. His paintings were well received and he was favourably compared with

Audubon. In 1846 Lear published *A Book of Nonsense*, a volume of limericks which went through three editions and helped popularise the form. In 1865 *The History of the Seven Families of the Lake Pipple-Popple* was published, and in 1867 his most famous piece of nonsense, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, which he wrote for the children of his patron Edward Stanley, 13th Earl of Derby. Many other works followed. His nonsense works are distinguished by a facility of verbal invention and a poet's delight in the sounds of words, both real and imaginary.