

[Free and download] The Oxford Book of Comic Verse (Oxford Books of Prose Verse)

# The Oxford Book of Comic Verse (Oxford Books of Prose Verse)

*John J. Gross*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*


'there are enough plums in this pudding to cheer the most melancholy reader.' *Ned Sherrin*

The Oxford Book of



**Comic Verse**

*Edited by* **John Gross**

 **Download**

 **Read Online**

#2300902 in Books Oxford University Press USA 2009-05-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.10 x 1.30 x 7.70l, .87 #File Name: 0199561613560 pagesOxford University Press USA | File size: 40.Mb

**John J. Gross : The Oxford Book of Comic Verse (Oxford Books of Prose Verse)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Book of Comic Verse (Oxford Books of Prose Verse):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great anthology of humorous verseBy M. J. SweetThis is the finest anthology of British and American humorous verse that I know of. A bedside book par excellence, so full of funny gems that it's impossible to list them here. There is every form of humor, from satire and parody to just plain silly,

from every period, famous authors and totally obscure ones. It'll make you laugh. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Comic verse for the English reader  
By Arnold Seiken  
This might be a book that appeals to the English reader, perhaps not so much to an American. The selections are, so to speak, too prim and proper, too clean and literary. Some exceptions of course but not too many. No Little Willy rhymes, no Burma Shave ditties, no "Maid from Nantucket" type verses. Very few double dactyls and the included limericks are really not very amusing. Nothing vaguely resembling:  
When grandmama fell off the boat.  
And couldn't swim and wouldn't float,  
Matilda just stood by and smiled.  
I very nearly slapped the child.  
A great poem, wouldn't you agree?  
What I did learn from buying this book on line is not to buy a book on line. Moral: When interested in buying a book, go to your nearest bookstore and sample the contents. Don't buy sight unseen.  
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For those who enjoy a wicked smile and a good laugh - and who doesn't?  
By Monica B. Morris  
Dip into the The Oxford Book of Comic Verse at any time - when you're feeling merry or when you're feeling blue. My absolute favorite in the whole volume (I AM a writer, remember!) goes "The book of my enemy has been remaindered.....And I am glad!" It's deliciously wicked! There are tons of other marvelous poems (it's a big book) dating back hundreds of years and dating forward to the present. I was introduced to this book by my brother when I was in England recently, promoting a book of my own (Goodnight Children, Everywhere, The History Press Ltd.) He read some of the poems to me and I was so enchanted that I ordered the book as soon as I got home.  
Monica B. Morris

From limericks to social satire, The Oxford Book of Comic Verse offers a remarkable collection of outstanding light poetry. John Gross has brought together the finest writers in the history of the English language - from Chaucer and Skelton to Shakespeare and Swift, Lord Byron to Robert Browning, Emily Dickinson to John Updike, as well as witty song lyrics from such artists as Irving Berlin and Cole Porter - offering delightful examples of their comic verse. Drawing on many different types of verse, including epigrams, street ballads, advertising jingles, clerihew, music-hall lyrics, and the doubledactyl of the calypso, this highly entertaining collection offers an exceptionally wide range of comic pleasures. The poems are by turns subtle, down-to-earth, macabre, ingenious, acerbic, ribald, and cheerful. Written to amuse, they call forth laughter and delight in equal measure. Compiled by one of our finest critics and anthologists, this reissue boasts a stylish new design and a fresh contemporary feel.

From Publishers Weekly  
In his introduction, Gross, also the editor of The Oxford Book of Essays, defines comic verse as primarily meant to amuse. From this bland definition he derives his principles of inclusion: funny poems that do not exceed the boundaries of good taste. No bawdy lyrics, no skewering satire here. Within these limits, he surveys the field from Chaucer to Glyn Maxwell (1962-), comforting readers with such old chestnuts as Tom Brown's "Dr. Fell," the anonymous "Elinor Glyn" and Gellert Burgess's "The Purple Cow," and delighting them with new surprises like Burgess's sequel, "Cinq Ans Apres," Richard Wilbur's "Prisoner of Zenda," C.S. Calverley's "Flight," Virginia Graham's "Ein Complaint" and a host of others. Arguments could be made over the relative lack of American and, especially, female voices-where, for example, are Gertrude Stein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Marianne Moore?-and over the inclusion of popular song lyrics, poems in French, or Burma shave ads. But this is, overall, an entertaining collection that updates and complements W.H. Auden's Oxford Book of Light Verse (1939, reprinted 1979) without in the least challenging Auden's more serious purposes. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Booklist  
Even hardened poetry loathers enjoy comic verse now and then. Unfortunately, if said grumblers go only for filthy limericks, they'll hate this book, too; editor Gross acknowledges the appeal of the risibly risqu{ }e but excludes it. Yet if those verse haters still enjoy nonfilthy limericks or Burma-Shave signs, maybe they'll at least read the examples of both herein and then let their eyes stray and discover plenty to raise a smile and brighten a day. It'll help during the first third of the book, which presents the pleasantries of bards from Chaucer through Tennyson, if they're literarily or historically informed, but thereafter nearly any good reader should find lots to enjoy: patter songs by W. S. Gilbert, parodies of serious poems and parodies of the loopy English language (see "The Harbour of Fowey" by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch), music hall recitations and Tin Pan Alley lyrics, the inimitable reflections on mundane madness of Ogden Nash, silly alphabets (including one from Barry Humphries' altered ego, Dame Edna Everage), and much by poets whose reputations are for heavier stuff. Ray Olson `from previous edition the laughter quotient is greatly boosted by many unfamiliar delights' Times Literary Supplement `Mr Gross has put enough plums in his pudding to cheer the most melancholy reader.' Ned Sherrin, Evening Standard `John Gross has rightly relied on instinct, selected widely, and spared us too much agonising about what constitutes comic verse.' Literary `hugely enjoyable' London Evening Standard `Almost every quotation in this new Oxford collection amused me ... This is a good anthology.' F.E. Pardoe, Birmingham Post `it is hard to voice any complaint whatever about an anthology so replete with riches - one, moreover, upholding the idea of humour as a by-product of an idiosyncratic vision, with ease-of-manner resulting from a cast-iron control ... True comic verse, as we find here, is always inseparable from comic verve.' Gerald Jacobs, The Spectator