



The Adventures of Prickly Porky

Thornton W. Burgess

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There's a big mystery brewing among the animals of the Green Forest — and it's all because of a strange little creature with no head, legs, or tail that came rolling down a hill and gave Peter Cottontail the fright of his life. What could it be?

Young readers and listeners will love finding out about this and other interesting goings-on in the Forest as they learn how Prickly Porky made friends, what made Old Granny Fox lose her dignity, why Old Man Coyote lost his appetite, and more.

Written by master storyteller Thornton W. Burgess, this classic combines all the fun of a good story with gentle lessons about wildlife, the environment, and human virtues. It is reset here in large, easy-to-read type, enhanced by six full-page Harrison Cady illustrations that perfectly capture the mood of this charming tale.

The Adventures of Prickly Porky Details

Date : Published July 3rd 1996 by Dover Publications (first published 1916)

ISBN : 9780486291703

Author : Thornton W. Burgess

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Classics, Childrens, Fiction, Animals

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From Reader Review The Adventures of Prickly Porky for online ebook

Caterpickles says

In this adorable collection of animal stories, Prickly Porky makes a friend, Granny Fox loses her dignity, and Old Man Coyote loses his appetite.

Jeff says

The Adventure of Prickly Porky is about the animals who live in Green Forest. It introduces readers to Prickly Porky who is new to the forest. The story is about how Prickly Porky makes friends and plays tricks on the other animals. The book was originally written in the early 1900s and there are words and expressions used that don't have the same meaning today as they did over 90 years ago. I still think children would enjoy this story as long as they had some of the outdated words explained to them.

WSL Library says

x2

Amber says

First introduction to Burgess (I should say, first book of his I've read in full). Charming stories of woodland animals and their interactions. I liked it especially because it actually contained a little mystery to puzzle out. We took our time going through this one, a chapter here and there. Towards the end, the kids really became invested in discovering the truth behind the mystery. Burgess is used in our future homeschool curriculum quite a bit so it was a great introduction to an author that is little known to children today.

momma.hailey says

My 7 year old read this aloud to me. We've yet to discover a Burgess book we haven't fallen in love with.

Jonathan Marshall says

The Burgess Books

This is a phrase that brings a smile to my face as often as I hear it. As a young child, I would lose myself for hours in the simple world of the wood and pond inhabited by Little Joe Otter, Buster Bear, Grandfather Frog,

and terrorized by Farmer Brown's Boy. I can remember the very shelf, even the exact spot in the little library in Felton, CA where these books were kept. I would return practically every week with a new armload to last me until our next trip to the library. Often I would carry out stories that I read several times before, just so I could once again escape into this imaginary world of furry mischief.

I remember these books well in concept, though the specifics of most of the stories elude me. It was easily fifteen years ago when I began reading them and has been over a decade since I last picked up one of Burgess' stories to read it. That being said, this review is being written as a look back.

These stories are very simple and very fun. Of course, they are children's literature, so that's to be expected, but these stories strike me as especially so. Even still, I can remember some fascinating things I gleaned between the their covers.

For one thing, Burgess did a fantastic job of presenting the ideas of perspective and motivation in simplistic terms. For example, "The Adventures of Danny Field Mouse" would cast Old Man Coyote as a vicious, mean creature wishing to prey on Danny and his friends and family. Yet, pick up instead "The Adventures of Old Man Coyote" and you'll see that when the story is told with him as the protagonist, those pesky field mice are annoying and useful for little more than a snack. After reading both books, you're no more inclined to think of Old Man Coyote as a villain than you are to think of Danny Field Mouse as a pest that should be exterminated. (Note: This is a generic example. I do not recall if Old Man Coyote plays a role in Danny Field Mouse's story or the other way around, but this concept was presented several times. It made an impression on me.)

The only characters consistently presented as antagonists were Farmer Brown and his boy. This would be one of the only things that I chalk up as odd, or maybe just a little "off" in these books. Humans and their influence on nature are presented as a negative influence on nature and animals - always. It's interesting to note though that while humans are seen as a negative, humanity is lauded and held up as virtuous. All of the animals take on not only human personalities but characteristics, traits, and mannerisms. From a frog with a monocle and an otter with a handkerchief tied to a stick, to a busy-body Jay and a reclusive owl who desires only to be left alone, humanity and it's traits keep cropping up.

Which would be another thing of value I feel that I saw in the Burgess books. These stories are full of social interaction and personality conflicts, even if they are caricatured more often than not. We see over and over again a working out of peace, if not harmony, between conflicting personalities. It may not always be easy to point out a scripture to reinforce the lesson implied, but social harmony is presented and more often than not, resolution is through reconciliation, forgiveness, or a similar method that is not only laudable, but distinctly Christian in action if not motivation.

All in all, the world created by Thornton W. Burgess is imaginative, innocent, fun, and educational. My recommendation? Grab a handful from your local library, gather a group of kids as an excuse, and lose yourselves in childhood imaginations as you read aloud the stories that have captivated several generations of young readers with the antics of our furry, albeit elusively human, friends.

(Disclaimers: As I said, it has been over a decade since I actually read one of Burgess' books. As such, there may be a specific example that's a little off in this review or something that I would have noticed as an adult that my childhood memories are missing. Also, all of these books say I read them in 1998. While I'm certain I read several of them that year, I'm sure I read some before and after that date as well.)

Roberta says

Mildly amusing story about talking animals and their reaction to a situation. I really enjoyed this book. Fun for all ages.
