



The Dwindling Party

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Pop-up illustrations and verses divulge how, one by one, six members of the MacFizzet family monstrously disappear during a visit to Hickyacket Hall, leaving behind only young Neville, who expects "it was all for the best."

The Dwindling Party Details

Date : Published September 12th 1982 by Random House

ISBN : 9780394851297

Author : Edward Gorey (Author and Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 12 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Art, Humor

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From Reader Review The Dwindling Party for online ebook

Aja says

one of the few books that he did in color, rhymes, and it's a POP-UP!
(everyone dies except the little boy)

Mainon says

One of my favorite Gorey books. Darkly comic (like all his books) but more fun than horrifying.

Mathew says

There once was a family whose name was MacFizzet
(Two parents, five children) who only last fall
Put on their best clothes and then set out to visit
The varied distractions of Hickyacket Hall.

This is the first Gorey that I have encountered apart from seeing what @tygertale has on his blog. Wonderfully dark and macabre, I would love to share this with children and see what they make of watching each of young Neville's family being devoured as you turn the pages. The interactive nature of the book means that you can take great pleasure in discovering how each family member is taken by the various dangerous denizens of Hickyacket Hall.

Lenore Appelhans says

Daniel found this in a used bookstore in excellent condition. Only Neville escapes the horrors of this gothic estate, but as we know from The Gashlycrumb Tinies, he later dies of ennui.

Jraven says

A wonderfully macabre childrens book. The pop-ups and illustrations are very detailed and is a book where you will discover something new almost every time you read the story. One of my favorites as a child. Unfortunately out of print. Published by Random House.

Nancy says

I don't know who gave me this book, but I am thankful that they did. I've had this book forever and I *love*

it. It's a bit macabre, but that's part of what makes it so fun. Sadly, it's out of print. Luckily for me, I have my own copy. :)

Lysmerry says

I've had this book since early childhood.

I still dream about it, and it's instilled in me a lifelong love of secret gardens, urns, and topiary.

As a small child I didn't realize that this book was morbid or macabre. I simply I played with it and helped the monster hands swoop the family members to oblivion, toying with but never realizing the repercussions of senseless loss.

I've gone through several phases, but always been attracted to gothic elements and even written my own comics- perhaps the Dwindling Party had something to do with it.

Erinn says

I first saw this book as a little girl while in the library. I remember eagerly turning the pages, and being a little confused that someone would make a children's book so morbid.

Now that I have my own copy, I still eagerly turn the pages. But I'm not as confused any more.

Christy Head says

Gothic, and unrepentantly, almost matter-of-factly morose and true to Gorey's signature style. This pop-up book has lovely illustrations and the pop-up element seems to detract from rather than add-to the book though it may give the story more appeal to younger children. This is not an especially clever book but still a decent read

Andrew Schwartz says

One of my favorite books when I was a child, both for the whimsical drawings and matter-of-fact tone which contrasted so nicely with the macabre subject matter. I used to read it whenever I visited my grandmother in Sarasota. She left me her copy when she passed on.

Jane says

My father bought this pop-up book at the Smithsonian in the early 1980's for my young daughter. I was told to keep it and only let her read it when she was sitting with me. So the pop-ups still work! A great tale, a little dark but then again my child was a lover of things that were a little dark or odd.

We have toured his home in Sandwich, MA several times - I recommend a visit if you are ever on Cape Cod.

Kim says

We had this book as a child before I ever realized how darkly funny it is- I only wish we had kept better care of it and still had the original version.

Magda says

I know I had written a review ...

This childhood favorite of mine was Teddy's first pop-up book. He had been crying, but stopped as I kept reading, opening his eyes for the turning of the page, and was all agog at the pop-up pages.

I enjoyed rereading the rhymes, of course, and wish I had more information on the family.

Jeff says

So cute. I wish it was 3x as long.

Valerie says

This is my favorite pop-up book.
