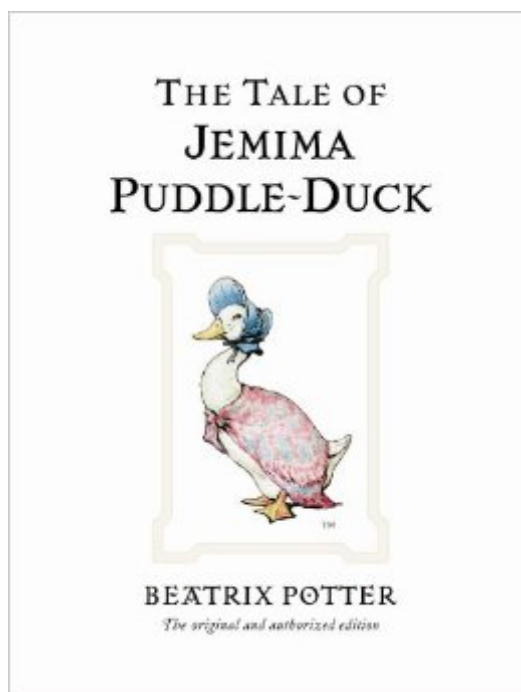


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# The Tale Of Jemima Puddle-Duck (Peter Rabbit)



## Synopsis

The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck is an original classic by Beatrix Potter. Poor Jemima. All she wants to do is lay her eggs in peace, and be allowed to hatch them herself. At last she flies off and finds the perfect place. Little does the silly duck realise that the charming gentleman who has lent her his woodshed is busily planning a delicious meal of . . . roast duck! Jemima was a real duck belonging to Beatrix Potter, who lived at her farm, Hill Top. The story also features Beatrix's own sheepdog, Kep, who thankfully manages to save Jemima from a nasty fate! Beatrix Potter is regarded as one of the world's best-loved children's authors of all time. From her first book, The Tale of Peter Rabbit, published by Frederick Warne in 1902, she went on to create a series of stories based around animal characters including Mrs. Tiggy-winkle, Benjamin Bunny, Jemima Puddle-duck, Mr. Jeremy Fisher and Tom Kitten. Her humorous, lively tales and beautiful illustrations have become a natural part of childhood. With revenue from the sales of her books, Beatrix Potter bought a farm - Hill Top - in the English Lake District, where she later became a farmer and prize-winning sheep breeder. She launched the now vast merchandise programme by patenting the very first Peter Rabbit doll in 1903. The product range continues to grow today with licences around the world including baby clothing and bedding, nursery decor products and collectables. Upon her death, Beatrix Potter left 14 farms and over 4000 acres of Lake District farmland to the National Trust so that the place that she loved would remain undeveloped and protected for future generations to enjoy. Today Beatrix Potter's original 23 tales are still published by Frederick Warne, alongside a wide range of other formats including baby books, activity books and gift and sound books. The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck is number nine in Beatrix Potter's series of 23 little books. Look out for the rest! 1 The Tale of Peter Rabbit 2 The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin 3 The Tailor of Gloucester 4 The Tale of Benjamin Bunny 5 The Tale of Two Bad Mice 6 The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle 7 The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher 8 The Tale of Tom Kitten 9 The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck 10 The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies 11 The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse 12 The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes 13 The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse 14 The Tale of Mr. Tod 15 The Tale of Pigling Bland 16 The Tale of Samuel Whiskers 17 The Tale of The Pie and the Patty-Pan 18 The Tale of Ginger and Pickles 19 The Tale of Little Pig Robinson 20 The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit 21 The Story of Miss Moppet 22 Appley Dapdilly's Nursery Rhymes 23 Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes

## Book Information

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Lexile Measure: AD610L (What's this?)

Series: Peter Rabbit (Book 9)

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Product Dimensions: 4.4 x 0.4 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (71 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #227,134 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #390 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Anthologies](#) #874 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Beginner Readers](#) #3033 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#)

## Customer Reviews

This IS the story of Jemima Puddleduck, and it can be read to children. It loses a lot of its interest value without the pictures, but the story is still good.

This is the third and last of the Beatrix Potter books that I have selected to review for the site. This tale of the trusting Duck who just wants to bring up her own eggs is a touching story about trusting the wrong people. A don't trust strangers story. I think that this version of the book is very accessible for anyone young or old who would like to learn from this story. I love the fact that the dogs go and save her from Mr Fox. I will always be a fan of the stories of Beatrix Potter. Each one holds a moral that can teach young children and I feel everyone can learn from them. The illustrations featured in this book and the others by Beatrix Potter are beautiful.

I always had Beatrix Potter down as an avatar of Home Counties tweeness, with her anti-modern paeans to the countryside and de liddle cuddly animals. So the unsentimental brutalities of this story came as a welcome shock. 'Jemima Puddle-Duck' is as endearingly hopeless as her name suggests, unable to tend her eggs in the overcrowded barn she shares with some supercilious hens. She flies over the forest in search of a suitably solitary spot, and comes across a helpful gentleman dressed in tweed, reading 'The Sporting Times'. He is a fox, and invites her to make use

of his summer residence, in particular the shed carpeted with the feathers of previous victims. Dazzled by his good breeding, Jemima accepts his offer and visits daily. When the eggs are about to hatch, Foxy suggests she bring along various goodies so they can have a charming goodbye party...The unremitting violence in this story does not emanate from where you'd expect, and this clear-eyed vision of the natural order of things, of brute force vs. cunning, takes place in the most idyllic setting you can think of, a richly detailed rural England, its hills and plants alive and painted in the most soothing colours. But even this balmy backdrop plays out a cycle of struggle for domination, with spiders eating flies, and various other creatures being horrid to one another. Written at the turn of the 20th century, just before female emancipation, it's hard not to see the woebegotten Jemima as an image of women's fate in a world run by men, both good and bad, with the fox as parasitic aristo in straitened circumstances, and the dog as paternalistic liberal. Indeed, the whole thing plays like an Emile Zola potboiler disguised as toddler fodder. Upsetting, cruel and marvellous.

This is an absolutely enthralling story about a foolish duck who places her trust in a stranger who ingratiates himself to her. Jemima is a duck who lacks patience, perseverance and discernment. She flees a place of safety and care to find a place to lay her eggs but unfortunately befriends a fox. The fox tells her what she wants to hear and offers her everything she needs to lay her eggs. There are hints that this fox shouldn't be trusted, but Jemima ignores them. Some might object to the sad ending, but books are a safe place to learn hard lessons. In this case, the lesson is that people who agree with everything you say and bend over backward to accommodate you may not always be looking out for your best interest. My preschooler loves this book for the beautiful illustrations and interesting dialogue. He doesn't understand the moral lesson yet, but the point of good literature is to place the story in the child's mind so that later, when he is more mature, he has an existing narrative to compare real-life experiences against.

I bought this book as part of a big sister-little sister present. I got my friends' older daughter this copy and their new baby a board book version. This copy from the publisher Pavilion Press is awful. The pictures are all pixelated and there is a black line that runs across the top of the cover like it had come off of someone's home printer and they hadn't cut the cover out properly. I could not give this book to my friends, so I had to return this copy. I love the story of Jemima Puddle-Duck and would highly recommend that to someone, but this particular copy from Pavilion Press is a waste of money and is very poor quality.

Jemima's tale is an old-fashioned allegory, warning young women to beware of foxy gentlemen who show an unnatural interest in their eggs. Jemima is a little gullible and trusting, restless to leave the farm, and a "very bad sitter" - in short, she's a girl looking for trouble. The foxy gentleman is quick to size her up and take advantage. The book is perhaps one of the few child-sized Greek tragedies, as Jemima goes to so many lengths to protect her eggs, trusts the wrong person and then just on the verge of rescue, the eggs are lost anyway. The allegory goes perhaps one step too far when Jemima's rescuers accidentally gobble up her eggs. As the central moral of the story is recognizing "stranger danger", it's a little too ironic that the friends should cause the tragedy. All the characters are three-dimensional adult personalities transcribed into animal form and the story has an undercurrent of menacing violence that might bother some parents. However, small children will not see past the exquisite water colour illustrations of the farmyard animals, so you can enjoy this book together and talk about the mistakes Jemima makes and the lies the foxy gentleman tells... We can only hope Jemima doesn't make similar errors of judgement in the future.

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