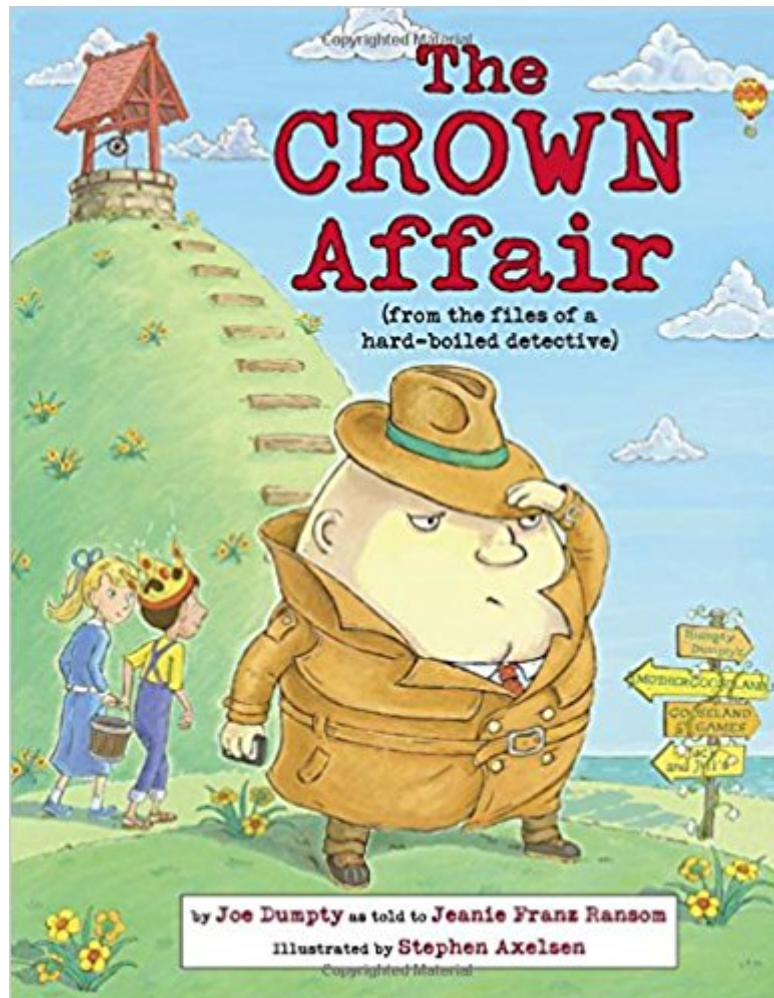




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# The Crown Affair (Nursery-Rhyme Mysteries)



## Synopsis

In the sequel to *What REALLY Happened to Humpty?*, Jack (Jill's other half) fell down the Hill and had his crown stolen. It's up to detective Joe Dumpty to round up the usual suspects and track down the culprit.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0530 (What's this?)

Series: Nursery-Rhyme Mysteries

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580895522

ISBN-13: 978-1580895521

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #790,845 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in *Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Puns & Wordplay* #565 in *Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Nursery Rhymes* #5045 in *Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives*

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 • In this sequel to *What Really Happened to Humpty?* (Charlesbridge, 2009), Detective Joe Dumpty is back on another case. Jack and Jill, as everyone knows, went up a hill, but as Jack fell down and broke his crown, someone went and snatched it! All that Joe Dumpty knows for sure is that one of Mother Gooseland's many Jacks is the culprit, and he rounds up the usual suspects to determine which of them is guilty. Ransom does a decent job introducing new characters and locations in Mother Gooseland, but the story does not have the same drive as the first one. The play on nursery rhymes is still clever, but the many puns involving eggs are overdone. The case itself is also not as interesting as its predecessor, with fewer clues to follow along as Joe Humpty mostly just goes from Jack to Jack until he finds the guilty person. Missteps aside, the illustrations are a step up from those in the previous book, as colors pop a bit more and outlines are

sharper, creating a much better experience. VERDICT There will always be room for more fractured fairy tales, so consider this one if the first case is popular. —Peter Blenski, Greenfield Public Library, WI

\*When Jack and Jill fell down the hill, did Jack really lose his crown, or did someone make off with it? Detective Joe Dumpty, previously seen in 2009's *What REALLY Happened to Humpty?*, is on the case in this witty companion book. Tipped off that a certain other nursery-rhyme Jack might be responsible for the crown's disappearance, Joe sets out to interrogate suspects, and his noir-flavored narration is just as much fun this time around ("Between his bum foot and his scorched bottom, Jack wouldn't have been nimble or quick enough to grab the crown this morning"). Axelsen's illustrations are packed with humorous details and cleverly reimagined Mother Goose characters, and Ransom's references to "test[ing] positive for magic beans," among other gags, will amuse older readers. —*Publisher's Weekly*, *Starred Review* Noir whodunit in the land of Mother Goose. When Jack loses his crown after falling down that hill, who better to crack the case than hard-boiled Joe Dumpty, private eye? (Joe made his rep by solving the mystery surrounding his brother in *What REALLY Happened to Humpty?*, 2009.) Jill leaps over the yellow crime-scene tape to meet him at the hill. Jack's eyes look like pinwheels as he tells Joe what he remembers; dizzy Jill can't add much more. Spider goes over the crime scene with a fine-tooth comb...literally! Joe visits the Sprats, who are fighting; could it be about the crown? Jack B. Nimble is on crutches; he fell while practicing his candle-jumping. He's an unlikely suspect. And in the house that Jack built, "Goldy" describes a suspicious encounter with the Muffin Man. Joe grills this sailor-suited gourmand, who implicates yet another Jack, the one who went up the beanstalk. While Joe visits this sulky Jack, Spider takes a trip up the beanstalk to talk to the giant. Between them, they solve the crime, and just in time. Joe and Spider can tackle their next case: The cow has jumped over the moon and hasn't been seen since. The pun-packed yarn may go over the heads of younger readers, but their grown-ups will chuckle, and everyone will enjoy the impish twists on familiar images in Axelsen's Photoshop illustrations. Genuinely clever. —*Kirkus Reviews* *Reviews for What REALLY Happened to Humpty?*: "This CSI: Mother Goose is a winner." --*Booklist*, *starred review* "This nursery-rhyme caper will please." --*Kirkus Reviews*

Puns of Fun Joe Dumpty, the hard-boiled detective is on the case. Webs of intrigue wrap Joe and spider up in the search for a missing crown. They have one clue - the culprit was Jack. Problem is

there are so many Jacks. Who stole the crown? Jack who built the house, or Jack who jumped over the candlestick? What about Jack in the Beanstalk? Delightful illustrations make this romp through Nursery Rhyme Land even more fun. Children will giggle, and adults will grin as they visit with Joe Dumpty again.

Very enjoyable book! This is a great choice for all ages. Older kids will love the extra comments on the page and the younger ones will enjoy the story.

I agree with all the reviewer who have said that this is okay, but not as funny or charming as the Previous one. The egg-related puns were a little overdone, and flat.

This book picture book for young readers is a hoot. There's a real storyline here and plenty of tongue-in-cheek word play (main character is an egg!) so you'll enjoy the investigation to see who took Jack's (of Jack and Jill) crown. The illustrations are pretty cool too so this is the complete package! You'll find this book for accomplished readers very entertaining so enjoy!

Jack has lost his crown and it's up to Detective Joe Dumpty to find the culprit. If the crown is not found by two o'clock, the Gooseland Games will be kaput. When Joe gets to the scene of the alleged crime, Jack doesn't seem to be in shape to be of much help, so Joe interviews Jill instead. It seems there was a ground shaking boom as the tale twosome were heading up the hill. After the great fall, Jill notices that the crown is missing. To find the culprit, Joe scours Gooseland and interviews characters like Jack Sprat, Jack B. Nimble (recovering from a boom-induced foot injury), a surfer-like Goldilocks, and not so little Jack Horner who hangs out at the Muffin Man's Bake Shoppe. Joe collects clues and puns along the way which lead him to the main suspect, Jack of beanstalk fame. Is the punk-like Jack Beanstalk the new keeper of the crown? Will the Gooseland Games go sunny-side up or lay an egg? If Joe doesn't crack, he'll find the answers. The Crown Affair is the latest Joe Dumpty book that will egg your readers on. If you want to teach a unit on parody or puns, this would be a great mentor text. The text is a clever take on famous fairy tales and detective behavior. In the front and back of the book are maps of Mother Gooseland which could serve as models for a geography unit activity where students create their own maps of a fictional place. I was surprised how informed my students were of the nursery rhymes referenced in the book. Fractured tales are always fun to teach and write, so crack open a copy of The Crown Affair as an inspired introduction to that unit as well.

This would make for a great read aloud in the primary grades (late kinder or first and second) - at the end of or as part of a unit of study on nursery rhymes/fairy tales. The egg-shaped detective Joe Dumpty is searching for Jack's missing crown which leads him to several other "Jacks." In other words, children have to have some understanding of Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty, Jack Be Nimble, Jack and the Beanstalk and so forth to "get" how the author is playing with language and developing the storyline as Joe Dumpty tries to solve the mystery. A TON of language play in this book which makes it a good fit for older students as well - reading with partners, reading independently. Some examples: Easier - "I cracked the Humpty Dumpty case when I figured out that my brother didn't just accidentally fall from that wall." --says Joe Dumpty Harder - "I'm one tough egg, but I've got a soft shell for damsels in distress." - Joe Dumpty again It would be a difficult fit for English learners--they'd need background knowledge of the rhymes and stories as well as lots of explanation about how the author is playing with language to make meaning. For older students - 2-5th grade - this story would make a good writing mentor. How can we use the fairy tales we've learned about to create a mystery? How can we create a category of characters that come together in some way around a problem? This would also just be a good read aloud for parents and kids at home.

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