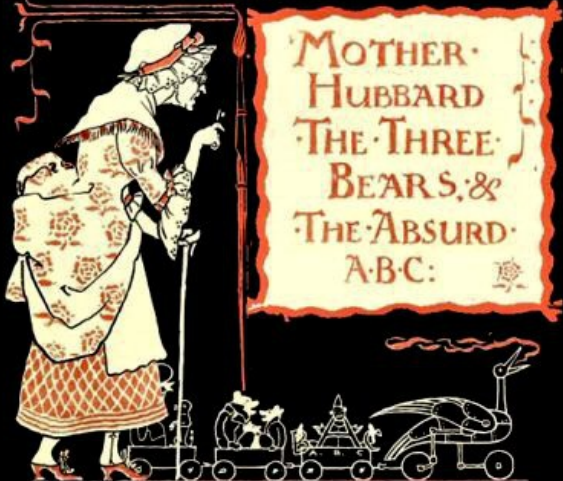


# MOTHER·HUBBARD· HER·PICTURE·BOOK·

CONTAINING:

MOTHER·  
HUBBARD  
THE·THREE·  
BEARS, &  
THE·ABSURD·  
A·B·C:



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Mother Hubbard, The Three Bears, & The Absurd A, B, C.

Author: Walter Crane

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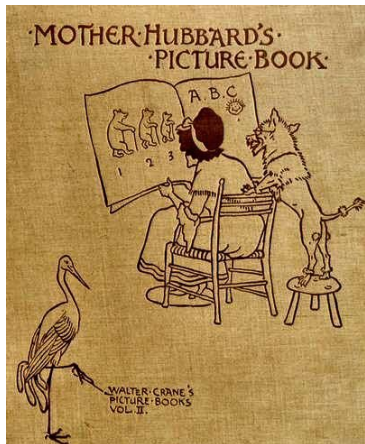
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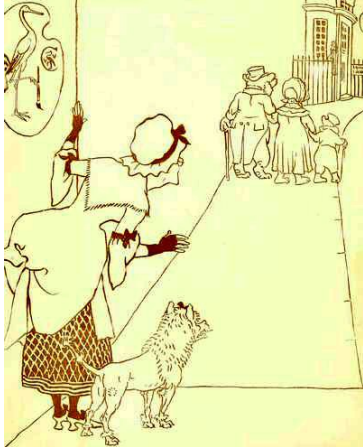
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# Mother Hubbard Picture Book

Walter Crane





Her neck did she CRANE,  
As she looked up the LANE  
To see the Three Bears pass by.  
They all went in, oddly,  
At the head of the Bodley  
An A.B.C. for to buy.



She went rather nearer  
To get a good look,  
And when she came back  
He had run through her book!







# **MOTHER HUBBARD HER PICTURE BOOK**

**Containing: Mother Hubbard,**

**The Three Bears, &  
The Absurd A.B.C.**

**With the original coloured  
pictures, an illustrated preface  
& odds & end papers, never  
before printed.**

**By Walter Crane**

**John Lane.  
The Bodley Head.  
London & New York.**

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PREFACE

MOTHER HUBBARD

THE THREE BEARS

THE ABSURD A.B.C.



# PREFACE

MOTHER HUBBARD, as we all know, had a cupboard which she found bare on one occasion.

Well, this is Mother Hubbard's Picture Book, and it's rather bearish, too, for there are no less than THREE BEARS therein.

But you must not suppose that the book is altogether bear, because there are other things in it.

There's Apple pie, for instance to my certain knowledge, and "victuals and drink" of sorts, as well—but I must not let the cat out of the bag (or the cupboard) all at once—besides Mother Hubbard's clever dog is still feeding it, for his day (in spite of muzzles) is not over yet, and he is up to all his old tricks.

When you are tired of him, and if you <sup>[Pg 7]</sup>  
<sup>[Pg 8]</sup> can manage to get past the Three Bears, you will find the rest as ABSURDly easy as A.B.C. and probably meet many old friends on the way.

Walter Crane



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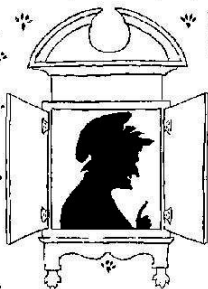
## WALTER CRANE'S PICTURE BOOKS RE-ISSUE

**MOTHER HUBBARD.**



JOHN LANE  
THE BODLEY HEAD  
LONDON & NEW YORK

MOTHER



RUBBARD



Old Mother Hubbard  
Went to the cupboard  
To get her poor Dog a bone;  
But when she came there  
The cupboard was bare,  
And so the poor Dog had none.



She went to the baker's  
To buy him some bread,  
But when she came back,  
The poor Dog was dead.  
She went to the joiner's  
To buy him a coffin,  
But when she came back,  
The poor Dog was laughing.

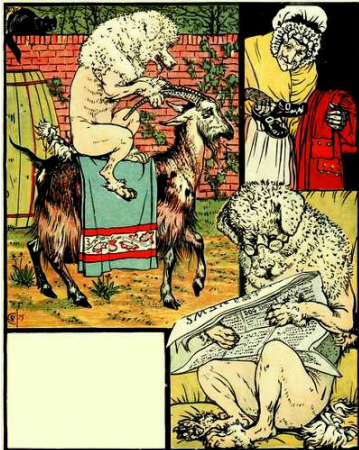




She took a clean dish  
To get him some tripe,  
But when she came back,  
He was smoking a pipe.  
She went to the ale-house  
To get him some beer,  
But when she came back,  
The Dog sat in a chair.



She went to the tavern  
For white wine and red,  
But when she came back,  
The Dog stood on his head.  
She went to the hatter's,  
To buy him a hat,  
But when she came back,  
He was feeding the cat.  
She went to the barber's  
To buy him a wig,  
But when she came back,  
He was dancing a jig.  
She went to the fruiterer's  
To buy him some fruit,  
But when she came back,  
He was playing the flute.



She went to the tailor's  
To buy him a coat,  
But when she came back,  
He was riding a goat.  
She went to the cobbler's  
To buy him some shoes,  
But when she came back,  
He was reading the news.

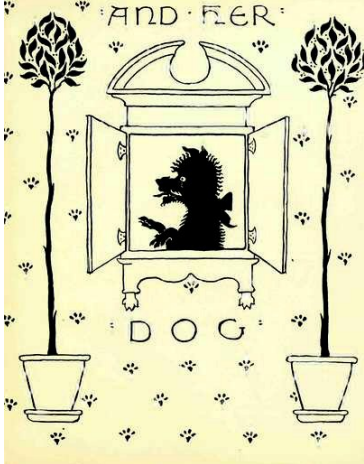


She went to the sempstress  
To buy him some linen,  
But when she came back,  
The Dog was a-spinning.  
She went to the hosier's  
To buy him some hose,  
But when she came back,  
He was drest in his clothes.



The Dame made a curtsey,  
The Dog made a bow;  
The Dame said, "Your servant,"  
The Dog said, "Bow wow!"

This wonderful Dog  
Was Dame Hubbard's delight,  
He could sing, he could dance.  
He could read, he could write.  
She gave him rich dainties  
Whenever he fed,  
And erected a monument  
When he was dead.



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The following may be had in this series:

This Little Pig  
The Fairy Ship  
King Luckieboy  
Mother Hubbard  
The Three Bears  
The Absurd A.B.C.

John Lane  
The Bodley Head  
London & New York

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**WALTER CRANE'S PICTURE BOOKS RE-ISSUE**

# THE THREE BEARS



JOHN LANE  
THE BODLEY HEAD  
LONDON & NEW YORK







## THE THREE BEARS.

Some time ago, ere we were born or thought of,  
There lived a little girl, who liked to roam  
Through lonely woods and lanes, unknown,  
unsought of  
Such folk who like to stop and stay at home.  
She found out curious things in all her travel  
And one of her adventures I will tell:  
Once, in a wood she saw a path of gravel,  
Which led to a small cottage in a dell.



And, as the door stood open, in walked boldly,  
This child, whose name was Silverlocks, I'm told;

There was nobody there to treat her coldly,  
No friend to call her back, no nurse to scold.  
She found herself within a parlour charming;  
And there upon the table there were placed  
Three basins, sending up a smell so warming,  
That she at once felt hungry, and must taste.  
The largest basin first, but hot and biting  
The soup was in it, and the second too;  
The smallest basin tasted so inviting,  
That up she ate it all, with small ado.



And next she saw three chairs, and tried to sit in  
The biggest, but it was too hard and high;  
The middle one she scarcely seemed to fit in,  
But in the smallest chair sat easily;



And then the little Cub, their only charge.

They had gone for a walk before their dinner;  
Returning, Father growled, "Who's touched my  
soup?"

"Who's touched my soup?" said Mother, with voice  
thinner;

"But mine," said little Cub, "is finished up!"

They turned to draw their chairs a little nearer;

"Who's sat in my chair?" growled the Father Bear;

"Who's sat in my chair?" said the Mother, clearer;

And squeaked the little Cub, "Who's broken my  
small chair?"



They rushed upstairs, and Father Bruin, growling,  
Cried out, "Who's lain upon my bed?"

"Who's lain on mine?" cried Mother Bruin, howling;



"But some one *lies* on mine!" the small Bear said.

"We'll kill the child, and eat her for our dinner,"

The Father growled; but said the Mother, "No;

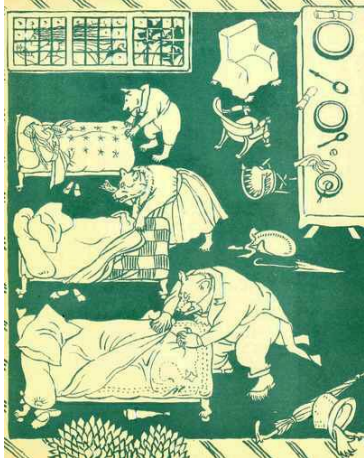
For supper she shall be, and I will skin her."

"No," said the little Cub, "we'll let her go."



So Silverlocks, in sudden terror flying,  
Reached home; and when the Nurse the story  
hears,  
She says, "You are in luck, there's no denying,  
To get away in safety from  
**THREE BEARS.**"





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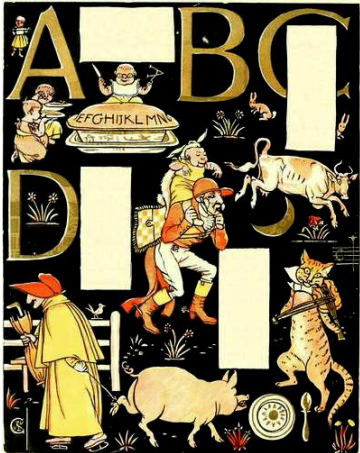
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**WALTER CRANE'S PICTURE BOOKS RE-ISSUE**

# THE ABSURD A.B.C.



JOHN LANE  
THE BODLEY HEAD  
LONDON & NEW YORK

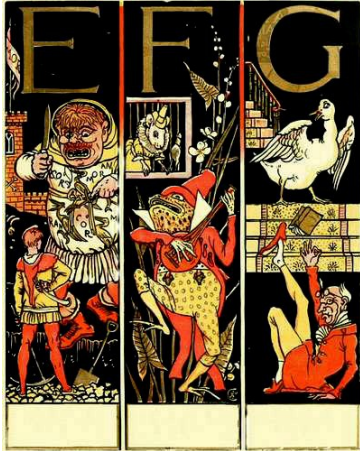


A for the APPLE or Alphabet pie,  
Which all get a slice of. Come taste it & try.

B is the BABY who gave Mr. Bunting  
Full many a long day's rabbit skin hunting.

C for the CAT that played on the fiddle  
When cows jumped higher than 'Heigh Diddle  
Diddle!'

D for the DAME with her pig at the stile,  
'Tis said they got over, but not yet a while.



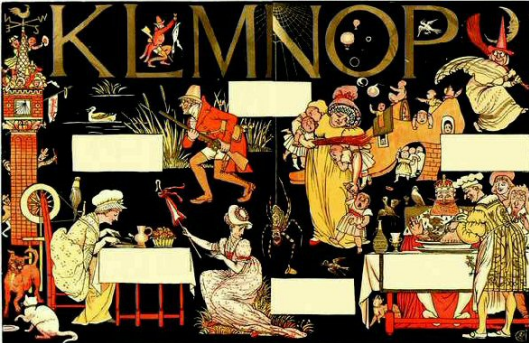
E for the Englishman, ready to make fast  
The giant who wanted to have him for breakfast.

F for the Frog in the story you know,  
Begun with a wooing but ending in woe.

G for Goosey Gander who wandered upstairs,  
And met the old man who objected to prayers.



H for poor Humpty who after his fall,  
 Felt obliged to resign his seat on the wall.  
 I for the Inn where they wouldn't give beer,  
 To one with too much and no money, I fear.  
 J does for poor Jack and also for Jill,  
 Who had so disastrous a tumble down hill.



K for calm Kitty, at dinner who sat,  
While all the good folks watched the dog & the cat.

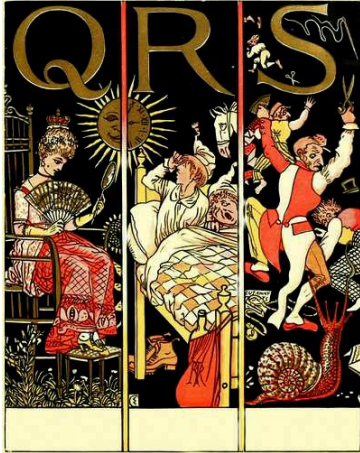
L for Little man, gun and bullets complete,  
Who shot the poor duck and was proud of the feat.

M for Miss Muffet, with that horrid spider,  
Just dropped into tea and a chat beside her.

N for the Numerous children, they who  
Were often too much for their mother in Shoe.

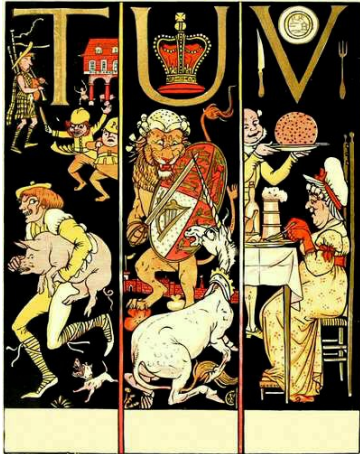
O the Old person that cobwebs did spy,  
And went up to sweep 'em Oh ever so high!

P for the Pie made of blackbirds to sing,  
A song fit for supper, a dish for a king.



Q for Queen Anne who sat in the sun  
 Till she, more than the lily resembled the bun.  
 R stands for Richard & Robert, those men  
 Who didn't get up one fine morning till ten!  
 S for the Snail that showed wonderful fight,  
 Putting no less than twenty-four tailors to flight!

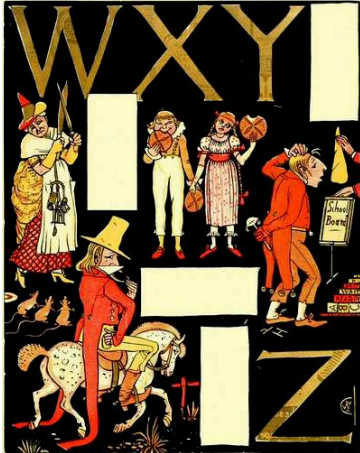




T stands for Tom, the son of the piper,  
May his principles change as his years grow ripier.

U for the Unicorn, keeping his eye on  
The coveted crown, and its counsel the Lion.

V is for Victuals, including the drink,  
The old woman lived on surprising to think!

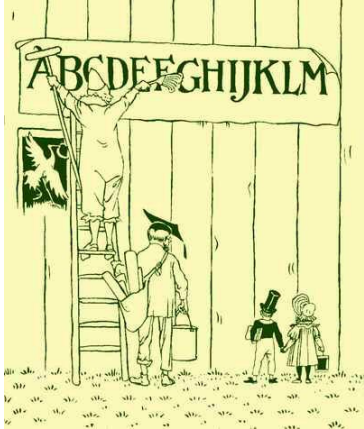


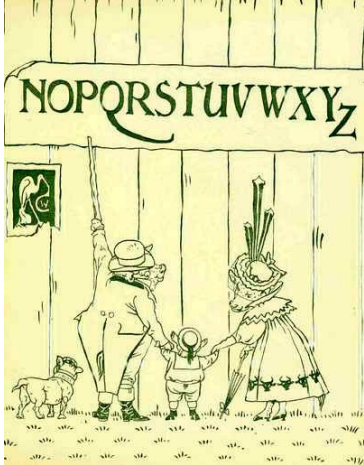
W for the WOMAN who not over nice,  
Made very short work of the three blind mice.

X is the X that is found upon buns,  
Which daughters not liking may come in for sons.

Y for Yankee Doodle of ancient renown,  
Both he & his pony that took him to town.

Z for the Zany who looked like a fool,  
For when he was young he neglected his school.





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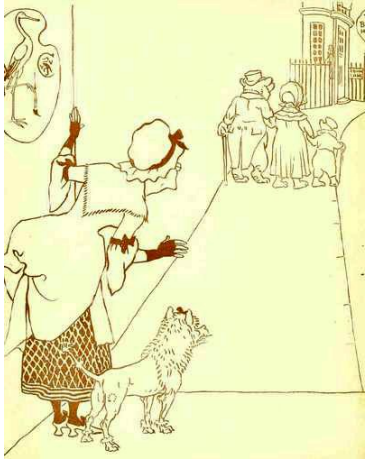
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Transcriber's notes:

Table of Contents added to aid navigation.

In the original, the text was interlaced with the illustrations. In this etext it has been placed below the associated illustration.

Punctuation and spacing "A.B.C." has been used for all occurrences.

Full stops or commas have been added where omitted at the ends of lines.

In The Absurd A.B.C., the positions of the apostrophes have been corrected in "Full many a long day's rabbit skin hunting" and "went up to sweep 'em"

The illustration immediately following The Absurd A.B.C. (page 64), a poster of the letters A to M, was omitted from the original images on the



Internet Archive. It has been obtained from a separately published version of The Absurd A.B.C. at Project Gutenberg.

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