



Lionel and the Book of Beasts

By E. Nesbit

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Lionel and the Book of Beasts By E. Nesbit

Master Lionel, dear, they've come to fetch you to go and be King.

And with that, even though Lionel is just a small boy, he is crowned King.

Now, Lionel's great-great-great-great-great-grandfather was not only King but a wizard as well, a wizard who loved books. When Lionel explores the palace library, he opens a huge volume entitled *The Book of Beasts*, only to let loose a spectacular red Dragon in all its fury. The red Dragon terrorizes the people in Lionel's kingdom. Determined to be brave, Lionel returns to *The Book of Beasts* and "with a fluttering of wings and a stamping of hoofs" sets free the amazing Hippogriff. Together the mighty Hippogriff and King Lionel close the book on the red Dragon.

Detailed illustrations accented with vivid shades of red and gold re-create this imaginary kingdom, along with the beasts, both good and evil, who dwell within.

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Lionel and the Book of Beasts By E. Nesbit Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3043649 in Books
- Brand: Brand: HarperCollins
- Published on: 2006-11-01
- Released on: 2006-10-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .41" h x 8.84" w x 11.18" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 48 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2–4—Inga Moore's retelling (Candlewick, 2001) substituted simple American English in a heavily abridged version of Nesbit's *The Book of Beasts* that effectively maintained some of its sweet humor. Now Hague uses his signature, elaborately detailed art to present a more somber abridged version (only minor textual changes from Moore's book) that may appeal to older children who like to be slightly scared. A large, fierce-looking red dragon dominates a couple of spreads. The luxurious details in the paintings depicting various town and landscape scenes include an elegant carriage drawn by eight white horses, a fountain holding up a gold-colored elephant, and a swan floating in a pond in a garden filled with statuary and urns. Interior details reveal a library with books overflowing onto the floor and chairs, elegant furniture, wooden toys, a lush bear pelt, and a clever portrayal of the little prince being mesmerized by the magic in the *Book of Beasts*. For libraries that do not have Moore's lighthearted romp, this version will please most children.—Kirsten Cutler, Sonoma County Library, CA

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From [Booklist](#)

In this significantly shortened version of Nesbit's story, also known as the *Book of Beasts*, Hague, who retells the tale, retains the original's incidents while trimming off most of the verbal shrubbery that lent it a comically acerbic tone. Suddenly finding himself made king, little Lionel unwisely opens one of his royal books and releases a dragon (rendered in Hague's distinctively golden-hazed illustrations as a sinuous red monster with moth-eaten wings) that proceeds to discomfit the kingdom by eating Parliament and other tidbits. Fortunately, the same tome then yields a Pegasus-like Hippogriff that helps Lionel coax the red menace back onto its assigned page. Purists won't have all that much trouble finding an edition of the original story, but for less-sophisticated readers, Lionel does cut a slightly more heroic figure than in Inga Moore's abridgment, *The Book of Beasts* (2001). John Peters

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About the Author

Edith Nesbit Bland (1858-1924) published most of her work under the signature of E. Nesbit and wrote or collaborated on more than sixty books for children. Her works include *The Railway Children*, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*, and *The Wouldbegoods*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Vanness:

Here thing why this Lionel and the Book of Beasts are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good however it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Lionel and the Book of Beasts giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no reserve that similar with Lionel and the Book of Beasts. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your approach home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe

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Cynthia Gomez:

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Ruben Jenkins:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Lionel and the Book of Beasts, you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Rita Merritt:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Lionel and the Book of Beasts can be the reply, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

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