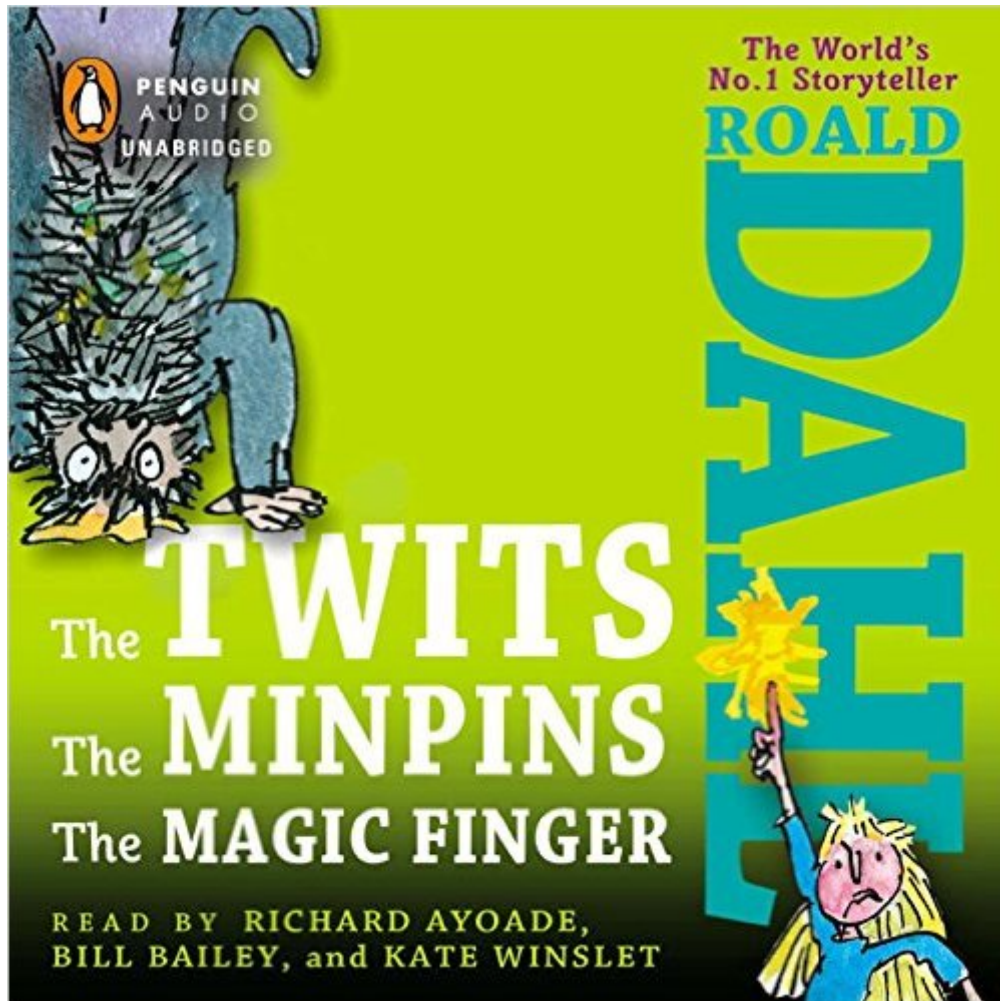


The book was found

The Twits, The Minpins & The Magic Finger



Synopsis

Roald Dahl sometimes shared a tonal kinship with Ogden Nash, and he could demonstrate a verbal inventiveness nearly Seussian. "[His] stories work better in audio than in print." "The New York Times" THE TWITS How do you outwit a Twit? Mr. and Mrs. Twit are the smelliest, nastiest, ugliest people in the world. They hate everything "except playing mean jokes on each other, catching innocent birds to put in their Bird Pies, and making their caged monkeys, the Muggle-Wumps, stand on their heads all day. But the Muggle-Wumps have had enough. They don't just want out, they want revenge. THE MINPINS Little Billy strays into the forest, where he meets the Minpins—tiny people who live within the trees. The Minpins tell Billy about The Gruncher, who preys on them. So Billy embarks on a mission to rid the Minpins of their foe once and for all, and sets off on the back of a swan to confront The Gruncher. THE MAGIC FINGER What happens when the hunter becomes the hunted? To the Gregg family, hunting is just plain fun. To the girl who lives next door, it's just plain horrible. She tries to be polite. She tries to talk them out of it, but the Greggs only laugh at her. Then one day the Greggs go too far, and the little girl turns her Magic Finger on them. When she's very, very angry, the little girl's Magic Finger takes over. She really can't control it, and now it's turned the Greggs into birds! Before they know it, the Greggs are living in a nest, and that's just the beginning of their problems.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Listening Library (Audio); Unabridged edition (September 26, 2013)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.4 x 4.9 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

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Children's Fiction > Fantasy #327 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General

#12011 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Title: The Twits, The Minpins, and The Magic Finger
Author: Roald Dahl
Read by: Richard Ayoade, Bill Bailey, and Kate Winslet
Publisher: Penguin Audio
Length: Approximately 1 Hour (2 CDs)
Source: Review Copy from Penguin Thanks!
My ten year old son Kile, my eight year old son Daniel, and I started listening to this collection on the way to Mom and Son Scout camp. Their five year old sister Penelope started listening at the end of The Twits when we returned home and now we can't go anywhere without listening to the story by Roald Dahl. Although Kile is at regular Scout Camp this week and we were told that we cannot listen to any more of Matilda without him. The Twits are the most miserable people you have ever met. They spend their time putting glue on a tree to catch birds for their bird pie and maybe a spare boy or two. The monkeys they keep caged decide that they are tired of their and the birds' situations and are set for vengeance. The kids thought this was hilarious. The Minpins was by far the favorite story for my kids. It was a great fantasy story about a boy, Billy, who ventures out into the woods against his mother's advice and discovers that the beast she had warned him of is all too real and has him cornered in a tree. While there, he also discovers an entire race of small people living in the trees who ride birds. Will Billy be able to find his way back home? A girl has The Magic Finger and turns a family of hunters into the hunted so that they can learn what it is like to be a family of ducks. This audio collection is superb with great jaunty music before and after each story and fantastically expressive narrators for all three stories.

The 2013 batch of Roald Dahl audiobook readings has struck me as an uneven bunch. There are some excellent audiobooks such as the David Walliams rendition of The BFG and Kate Winslet's absolutely divine rendition of Matilda. However, there have been some dull readings that lack the extra bit of sparkle that these stories need. Some of the lacklustre readings are included in this twin-disc that contains The Magic Finger, The Twits and The Minpins. The Richard Ayoade rendition of The Twits turned out to be a grave disappointment for a listener like me. For a reading geared at children, the reader needs to empathise with the text and read in an engaging way. However, Ayoade's reading comes across as dreadfully dull and boring. After listening to this reading I can't help questioning why Puffin did not invite Rik Mayall to read this story, as he could do so in a more engaging, kid-friendly way. Anyway, Ayoade's reading is so quiet and monotonous that it almost seems designed to lull listeners to sleep rather than keep them awake with the antics of the Twits and the Muggle-Wump monkeys. Ayoade's characterisations tend to lack life, especially Mr Twit, Muggle-Wump and the Roly-Poly Bird. Mr Twit in particular comes across as dim witted and meek. This character needs to have a raucous, domineering voice and as such Ayoade's characterisation

falls flat here. Only Mrs Twit is successful and Ayoade does his best to convey her scheming ways. Winslet's Magic Finger fares better. I have great respect for Winslet's voice as a narrator and audiobook reader. I have enjoyed her absolutely divine, angelic rendition of Matilda. She tries her best in this reading of the Magic Finger and pulls it off convincingly.

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