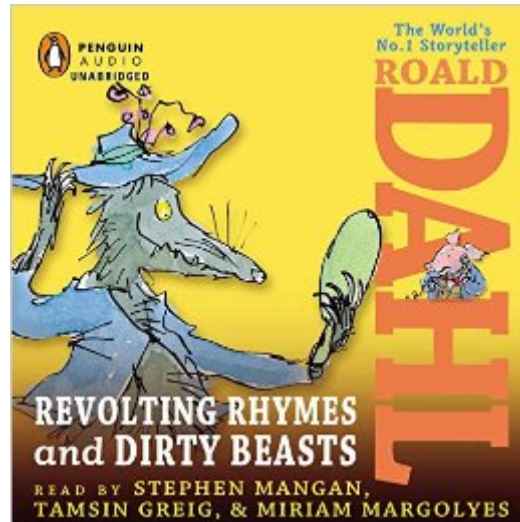


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# Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts



## 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 REVOLTING RHYMES Did you think Cinderella married the prince and lived happily ever after, or that the three little pigs outsmarted the wolf? Think again! Master storyteller Roald Dahl adds his own darkly comic twists to six favorite tales, complete with rambunctious rhymes and hilarious surprise endings. DIRTY BEASTS Roald Dahl's inimitable style and humor shine in this collection of poems about mischievous and mysterious animals. From Stingaling the scorpion to Crocky-Wock the crocodile, Dahl's animals are nothing short of ridiculous. A clever pig with an unmentionable plan to save his own bacon and an anteater with an unusually large appetite are among the characters created by Dahl in these timeless rhymes. This new, larger edition is perfect for reading aloud and makes Quentin Blake's celebrated illustrations even more enjoyable. "Will elicit a loud 'Yuck.' In other words, children will love them." (Children's Book Review Service)

## Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

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

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1611762082

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.4 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #883,700 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #278 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous #505 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

I bought a copy of this CD audiobook reading of these two hilarious Dahl poetry collections to see how the latest crop of Penguin Dahl readings measure up the tapes I had. Though there are some excellent readings such as Kate Winslet's absolutely divine and angelic version of Matilda, this disc of Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts is not one of the better ones in the 2013 batch of recordings.

The readings tend to be dull and are taken at a dreary and dragging pace. A number of the readings sound apathetic and not really engaged. When listening to this disc of readings I tend to be bothered by the slow pace of the readers. They lack the crisp, sparkling and raucous immediacy of past audiobook readings of these verses. The delivery of these poems is largely deadpan, and nobody relishes the humour and the funny sides of the poems. Tamsin Greig struggles in her readings. She tries her best but sounds too delicate when reading her allotted selection of poems. She tends to be a bit too soft and lacking in presence and projection. For instance, it would have helped if she had adopted a raucous gangster-style voice for the Wolf's lines in the Red Riding Hood and Three Little Pigs poems. Stephen Mangan is probably the best reader of the three. He tries to be expressive and his pace is brisker compared to Greig and Margolyes. He does his best at attempting funny voices and relishing the funny side of the poems. Margolyes is just fine in her readings. I'm not saying that the readers need to be excessively flamboyant in this material. I'm saying that they need to relish Dahl's irreverent, wicked yet quirky humour when they read his books for recordings. Unfortunately this new recording of Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts does not quite deliver and catch the Dahl spirit nicely. So in my mind it can't displace the out-of-print Prunella Scales/Timothy West readings of the 1980s.

Title: Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts  
Author: Roald Dahl  
Read by: Stephen Mangan, Tamsin Greig, and Miriam Margolyes  
Publisher: Penguin Audio  
Length: Approximately 1 Hour (1 CD)  
Source: Review Copy from Penguin Thanks!  
We listened to Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts by Roald Dahl a year or so ago on a family trip. I cracked it out again last week and all of the kids loved it again – it was like new. It's nice to find something that interests not only my ten year old son Kile, but his eight-year old brother Daniel, and 5-year old sister Penelope. Revolting Rhymes are basically six fractured fairy tales. Penelope loved that they were fairy tales, Kile and Daniel loved that they all had a twist, usually a dark comedic twist. I don't think Red Riding Hood will ever be the same for them now that they think she is wicked good with a gun and has a love for wolf skin coats. Kile isn't one to show emotions, but he laughed out loud several times during this audiobook and him, his friend Zach and brother Daniel brought it up in conversation days later. Dirty Beasts are a collection of poems about different animals. These are also darkly humorous and the kids loved guessing what would happen at the end of each poem. Penelope was just talking about these today when she saw some ants outside and it reminded her of the anteater in one of the tales. I loved the production of these tales. The jaunty music before and after each tale or poem was great – I wanted to listen to that on its own! The actors telling the tales were fantastic and put real emotion

and sound effects into each tale. Overall, this was a fabulous audiobook for children and shows Roald Dahl's dark humor. There are dark twists in the book though so it may not be appropriate for the very young or those that don't want to know that Cinderella and the Prince did not end up happily ever after.

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