



## Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme

By Chris Roberts

Download now

Read Online 

### Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts

Was Little Jack Horner a squatter? "Baa Baa Black Sheep" a bleat about taxation? What did Jack and Jill *really* do on that hill? Chris Roberts reveals the seamy and quirky stories behind our favorite nursery rhymes.

Nursery rhymes are rarely as innocent as they seem—there is a wealth of concealed meaning in our familiar childhood verse. More than a century after Queen Victoria decided that children were better off without the full story, London librarian Chris Roberts brings the truth to light. He traces the origins of the subtle phrases and antiquated references, revealing religious hatred, political subversion, and sexual innuendo.

Roberts reveals that when Jack, nimble and quick, jumped over a candlestick, he was reenacting a popular sport that tested whether a person was lean and healthy. Humpty Dumpty was actually a cannon mounted on the walls of a church in Colchester, blown up during the English Civil War. Few know that the cockles in "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" actually refer to cuckolds in the promiscuous court of Mary Queen of Scots. Or that "Rub-a-dub-dub, three maids in a tub" was inspired by a fairground peepshow.

A fascinating history lesson that makes astonishing connections to contemporary popular culture, *Heavy Words Lightly Thrown* is for Anglophiles, parents, history buffs, and anyone who has ever wondered about the origins of rhymes. The book features a glossary of slang and historical terms, and spooky silhouettes of nursery-rhyme characters to accompany the rhymes. Mother Goose will never look the same again.

 [Download Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind th ...pdf](#)



# Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme

By Chris Roberts

## Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts

Was Little Jack Horner a squatter? "Baa Baa Black Sheep" a bleat about taxation? What did Jack and Jill *really* do on that hill? Chris Roberts reveals the seamy and quirky stories behind our favorite nursery rhymes.

Nursery rhymes are rarely as innocent as they seem—there is a wealth of concealed meaning in our familiar childhood verse. More than a century after Queen Victoria decided that children were better off without the full story, London librarian Chris Roberts brings the truth to light. He traces the origins of the subtle phrases and antiquated references, revealing religious hatred, political subversion, and sexual innuendo.

Roberts reveals that when Jack, nimble and quick, jumped over a candlestick, he was reenacting a popular sport that tested whether a person was lean and healthy. Humpty Dumpty was actually a cannon mounted on the walls of a church in Colchester, blown up during the English Civil War. Few know that the cockles in "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" actually refer to cuckolds in the promiscuous court of Mary Queen of Scots. Or that "Rub-a-dub-dub, three maids in a tub" was inspired by a fairground peepshow.

A fascinating history lesson that makes astonishing connections to contemporary popular culture, *Heavy Words Lightly Thrown* is for Anglophiles, parents, history buffs, and anyone who has ever wondered about the origins of rhymes. The book features a glossary of slang and historical terms, and spooky silhouettes of nursery-rhyme characters to accompany the rhymes. Mother Goose will never look the same again.

## Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #583126 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Gotham
- Published on: 2005-08-18
- Released on: 2005-08-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.78" h x .92" w x 5.34" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

 [Download Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind th ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme* By Chris Roberts

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* A librarian by night and a London tour guide by day, Roberts deploys an informal style of scholarship to dazzling effect, transforming a catalogue of familiar nursery rhymes into a treasure trove of tantalizingly slippery archaisms, hidden etymological layers, arcane associations and buried meanings. Having explained how the Victorians sanitized nursery rhymes' traditionally earthy content, Roberts attends to each ditty separately, printing obscure variants and tracing historical references, from British constitutional history to bygone pagan customs. Unlocking the secret meanings of the past, Roberts also finds plenty of refreshingly straightforward modern-day analogies for the nursery rhymes—the chanted taunts of the average British soccer fan illustrate certain rhymes' original tone and purpose. In a fluidly digressive style, he debunks accepted theories and confidently asserts his own. His reading of "Hark, Hark, the Dogs Do Bark," for example, starts out by describing Elizabethan mass vagrancy, proceeds to anatomize 17th-century anti-Dutch sentiment and the etymology of the word "beggar," and winds up with a spirited commentary on New Age travelers. Roberts's intimate knowledge of London history is perfectly suited to his discussions of "London Bridge Is Falling Down" and "Pop Goes the Weasel." As any good historian of oral culture ought, Roberts intelligently admits that many rhymes have open-ended meanings subject to multiple interpretations. This is better than history lite—it's history made delightful. (Aug. 18)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From the Back Cover

"An intriguing & informative historical trip through those odd little songs I sang as an odd little child. A must-have for anyone who has ever been younger than they are now."

--Angus Oblong, creator of "The Oblongs" animated series & author of *Creepy Susie: And 13 Other Tragic Tales for Troubled Children*

"A merry tour of the origins of favorite nursery rhymes--including wars, land grabs, religious persecution, red-light sex and worthless rulers. Chris Roberts shows that, for understanding our darker nature, Machiavelli's got nuthin' on Mother Goose."

--James Finn Garner, author of *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*

About the Author

Chris Roberts is a librarian in South London and the proprietor of F and M Walking Tours in London. He incorporates these stories into his tours, which became the inspiration for the book. *Heavy Words Lightly Thrown* began as a self-published project in the UK and has already begun to receive widespread publicity, including coverage in *USA Today*. Roberts lived in New York City for several years after earning a degree in history at Swansea University. He lived in Berlin for a while before settling in London.

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Mary Molinari:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can

add your knowledge by the book entitled Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme. Try to stumble through book Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme as your pal. It means that it can to become your friend when you experience alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we should make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

**Leah Pelton:**

The reason? Because this Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book get such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Stanley Hanson:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme reserve written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written within good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still uncertainty Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme as good book but not only by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't judge book by its handle, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

**Sherry Clark:**

In this age globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for you is Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme this guide consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book ideal all of you.

**Download and Read Online Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The**

**Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts #ODGVCWNZA16**

# **Read Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts for online ebook**

Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts books to read online.

## **Online Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts ebook PDF download**

### **Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts Doc**

**Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts Mobipocket**

**Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme By Chris Roberts EPub**