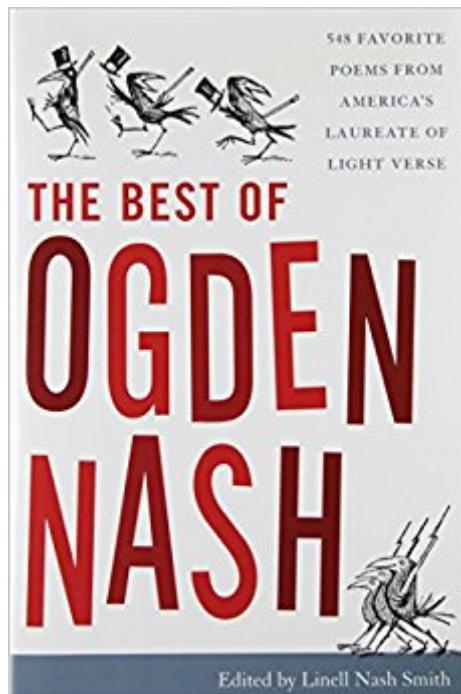


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# The Best Of Ogden Nash



## Synopsis

It's been more than thirty years since the appearance of a collection from America's laureate of light verse. Ogden Nash first gathered together an anthology of thirty years of his published works in 1959. In 1973 his daughters gathered more than four hundred of his poems and called it I Wouldn't Have Missed It, a quote from one of his verses. Now more poems have come to light, so his daughters have once again produced The Best of Ogden Nash, the definitive Nash anthology. The poems display the talent of the man whose verse entranced America from the time of the Great Depression until his death in 1971. The Best of Ogden Nash should delight old fans and introduce new readers to a unique talent.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

[An] affectionate look at Nash's life....Richly detailed with excerpts from family correspondence. (Tri-City Herald)As winter sets in and holidays are on the horizon, the warmth and cleverness of this anthology of 548 verses makes it a perfect gift - even for those who may be having a rift. (Elizabeth Taylor Chicago Tribune)Even those of us inclined toward felines are captivated by Ogden Nash....Warmth and cleverness...makes it a perfect gift. (Elizabeth Taylor Chicago Tribune)There was only one living poet in my mother's repertory-Ogden Nash. When she swatted some fly in the kitchen, she would intone with solemnity: 'God in his wisdom made the fly / And then forgot to tell us why.' Nash was an inveterate experimentalist...endlessly innovative in his versification and diction. His rhymes were not merely amusing but often revelatory....[His] legacy remains a vital part of

twentieth-century American poetry. (Dana Gioia)This bountiful new collection of The Best of Ogden Nash gathers not only the choicest and most beloved poems from his huge output but presents several previously unpublished pieces discovered among his papers and family correspondence. Classic or 'new,' Nash's humorous verses are a continual delight, as this volume will remind old admirers while regaling readers encountering him for the first time-and, given the current sad state of the world, not a moment too soon. (Joseph Parisi)Clearly Ogden Nash is God's gift to the United States. Genuine comic talent is nearly priceless. Mr. Nash is our best literary comedian since Will Rogers. He has become, in a strictly Shakespearian sense, America's number one fool, though in any other sense he is nobody's fool. He has become a social necessity. I have only one criterion for judging authors: how many are there without whom I could not possibly have lived until now? Ogden Nash is one of them. (Christopher Morley Saturday Review Of Literature)The reader will find himself completely captivated by rhyming of such unexpected originality that his only comment is hearty laughter. (Harpers Wine & Spirit)An outstanding, rare collection of works essential for any definitive poetry library. (Midwest Book Review)Open this book to any page and find guaranteed laughter. (Dr. Clif Cleaveland Chattanooga Times Free Press)

Ogden Nash is the best-loved poet of light verse in the United States. His daughter, Linell Nash Smith, has compiled this new collection. Linell Nash Smith lives in Baltimore.

Just to be clear: the poems in this collection are delightful, and the editor (the poet's daughter) has done an excellent job of making this the most comprehensive Ogden Nash collection available. I would give the book 5 stars for these qualities alone. However, the publisher's hack job of formatting this book for Kindle does an inexcusable disservice to the quality work and care that went into this collection of poems. Fonts change sizes in the middle of poems, there are huge gaps in some pages, including some that appear in the middle of stanzas so the poem's flow is broken (perhaps the print edition had illustrations which were incompatible with the Kindle format, but the blank spaces remained? or there was some visual spacing effect that didn't transfer well? just a guess). I've read plenty of poetry in Kindle format, and I have never encountered this problem elsewhere, even in rock-bottom free editions - at worst I might have to change font size occasionally to avoid visually awkward line breaks or to get an entire stanza on the same page - but with this book that solution simply won't work. When paying premium price for an e-book like this (over \$20 and more expensive than the print version), I expect the publisher to have a better handle on their formatting. I will give the publisher 2 stars instead of just 1, because they did manage to produce a

working table of contents (which for this many poems is no small feat). By all means read Ogden Nash for pure enjoyment; and only praise and good thoughts for the editor. But avoid paying this publisher premium prices until they get their formatting under control.

I was introduced to Ogden Nash many, many years ago when I was in Junior High School. I must say that many of his witticisms have remained with me throughout the years, some for the better. His writing made me think as well as to think beyond the obvious. Nash was ahead of his time and is brilliant, in my estimation. He gave me a deeper love of language, spelling, intention and meaning. If you are not sure, try it/one. You will never know unless you try. You may like it, better yet, you may LOVE it!

I have always loved Nash's quirky observations and twisted spellings to achieve a rhyme. This selection of his poems by his daughter represents him well. I wanted a collection on my e-reader so I could re-visit the poems at leisure --- unfortunately, the copying process to e-reader leaves some poems in tiny print, some in huge print. I'm constantly adjusting font size to read the poems --- a distraction, but it does nothing to diminish my pleasure in reading the poems.

I love the work of Ogden Nash. Although it is a long and complex story, his poem THE HIPPOPOTOMOUS helped me survive Bishop Watterson High School. I have reviewed on and/or own the following: Crandell, George W. (1990). Ogden Nash: A Descriptive Bibliography. Parker, Douglas M. (2005). The Life and Work of American's Laureate of Light Verse. Smith, Linell Nash (1990). Loving Letters from Ogden Nash: A Family Album. Smith, Linell Nash (2007) The Best of Ogden Nash. Stuart, David (2000). The Life of Rhymes of Ogden Nash. I can find ONLY one poem missing from it - one of my favorites - I BURN MONEY. The last lines reads: "But I think what I would really do if I had a million would be to buy a million dollars' worth of books written by me and then besides having a lot of good books I could sit back and live on the royalties for the rest of my life." How could Smith forget to include such a famous line? I quote it all the time! Nevertheless, I've read poems within the volume that I have not seen elsewhere. That make this work a great value to me!

I enjoy Ogden Nash's poetry. It is written with a sense of humor (though often, it seems, his lines are not very metrical). I also like to write humorous poems and, considering the "artsy" poetry that gets into the journals, I am glad to see that there is yet a market for what we do. Poetry shouldn't be

something to "figure out," it needs to touch you.

One of my favorite poets. When I was a child my mother read Eugene Field poems to me. A good poet, but poems are too depressing for my taste. Discovered Ogden Nash when my own children were little. Love his funny humor. My short and sweet favorite: I don't mind eels Except as meals And the way they feels.

Not all the ones I like, but close. Great Poems

Amazing collection of intellectual poetry. Worth a read.

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