

**WINNIE THE POOH**

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*Coloured Bedtime StoryBook*

(ANNOTATED)

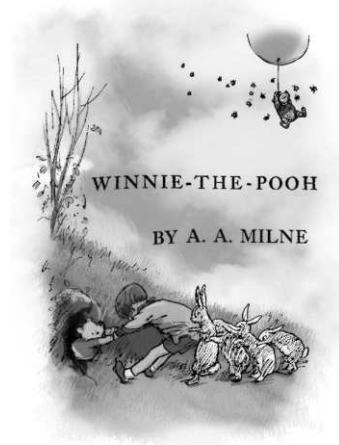


# WINNIE THE POOH

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## *Coloured Bedtime StoryBook*

(ANNOTATED)



***BY***

***A. A. MILNE***

***Illustrated by E. H. Shepard***

***Coloured & Annotated***

***By Su Yapicioglu***

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**When We Were Very Young**  
*"The best book of verses for children ever written."—*

**A. EDWARD NEWTON** in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

*To Her*

*HAND IN HAND WE COME  
CHRISTOPHER ROBIN AND I  
TO LAY THIS BOOK IN YOUR LAP.  
SAY YOU'RE SURPRISED?  
SAY YOU LIKE IT?  
SAY IT'S JUST WHAT YOU WANTED?  
BECAUSE IT'S YOURS—  
BECAUSE WE LOVE YOU.*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

---

### *Fairytale Hero Winnie the Pooh and Her Cursed Reputation*

*A. A. Milne*, author of the children's

**beloved fairytale hero bear Winnie the Pooh, and Christopher Robin, the child hero, and Milne's son tell the story of this bear's unexpected fame and negative impact on their lives.**

British author AA Milne, creator of the bear hero Winnie the Pooh, who had an important role in children's literature, died 60 years ago.

"I think we're all hoping to be immortal deep down," Milne said in 1926 before pooh's books caused a stir.

He was immortalized, Milne, but it didn't happen for the reasons he wanted.

Milne has written numerous books throughout his life, but the reputation of children's books has overshadowed others.

EH Shepard, who illustrated Winnie the pooh books, would later say he regretted painting Pooh, who was dubbed "that stupid old bear."

After winning the Book of Winnie the Pooh, Milne tried to write for Punch magazine, but even his former readers didn't pay attention. In his memoirs in 1974, his son Christopher spoke of how it had upset the family.

### *More Famous Boy Than His Father*

Milne wasn't the only one adversely affected by Winnie Pooh's fame. Milne's son, who inspired the Christopher Robin hero in the story, became even more famous than his father in one aspect. An article in a magazine mentioned Milne: "He is an English playwright whose plays were successfully adapted for the stage in New York. *And* Christopher is Robin's father."





*A.A. Milne, his Son Christopher and beloved bear hero Winnie the Pooh, 1926.*

The family did not try to keep son Christopher out of the media's attention. The letters the children wrote were delivered to him, and he and his nanny were responding to them. When he was seven, he was made to read audio recordings of books. Later, his cousin would refer to this as "Unacceptable aspects of the Pooh kingdom." When Christopher was eight years old, he read passages from the Pooh book in front of guests and sang *The Friend*, and in 1929 he revived the stories in a competition.

That's when Milne decided not to write a children's book anymore. Milne, who has successfully changed direction before, described his decision as "bewilderment and disgust" at his child's outrageous reputation.

"I didn't want the real Christopher Robin to get so much fame. I don't want CR Milne to say after a while that I wish my name was Charles Robert," father Milne said.

In 1930, Christopher started boarding school. The fiction in the story would have based his regret on that period as an inspiration to the hero. The other kids were going to hang out with him all the time, so. His neighbors would play the gramophone he was singing, return it to Christopher when they were tired, and he'd tear it to pieces.

## *Truth or Fiction?*

Those who never knew him pretended to know him, and he dared to judge him. On the 60th anniversary of Winnie the Pooh, literary critic Chris Powling wrote, "*Has there ever been another child who suffered as much as Christopher Robin?*"

To make matters worse, as Christopher noted in his memoirs, the judgments about him were based on a character that had nothing to do with him. His parents didn't call him Christopher Robin, he called him Billy. Both father and son Milne were trying to explain that this character had nothing to do with him, but even Shepard, who illustrated the story, could not make that distinction, painting the real Christopher in his first drawings.

Christopher had a real sense of resentment towards his father during the job search after he finished college. He would accuse her of "leaving nothing but an empty reputation of standing on the shoulders of a child, stealing her name and being her son."

Milne said he wanted to get rid of "*Winnie the Pooh*" as much as his son, but he couldn't.

In the story of *The House at Pooh Corner*, Milne didn't know that expression would be true, writing that "*There will always be a little boy and a bear playing in that magical place on the edge of the forest.*"

# INTRODUCTION

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If you happen to have read another book about Christopher Robin,

you may remember that he once had a swan (or the swan had Christopher Robin, I don't know which) and that he used to call this swan Pooh. That was a long time ago, and when we said good-bye, we took the name with us, as we didn't think the swan would want it any more. Well, when Edward Bear said that he would like an exciting name all to himself, Christopher Robin said at once, without stopping to think, that he was

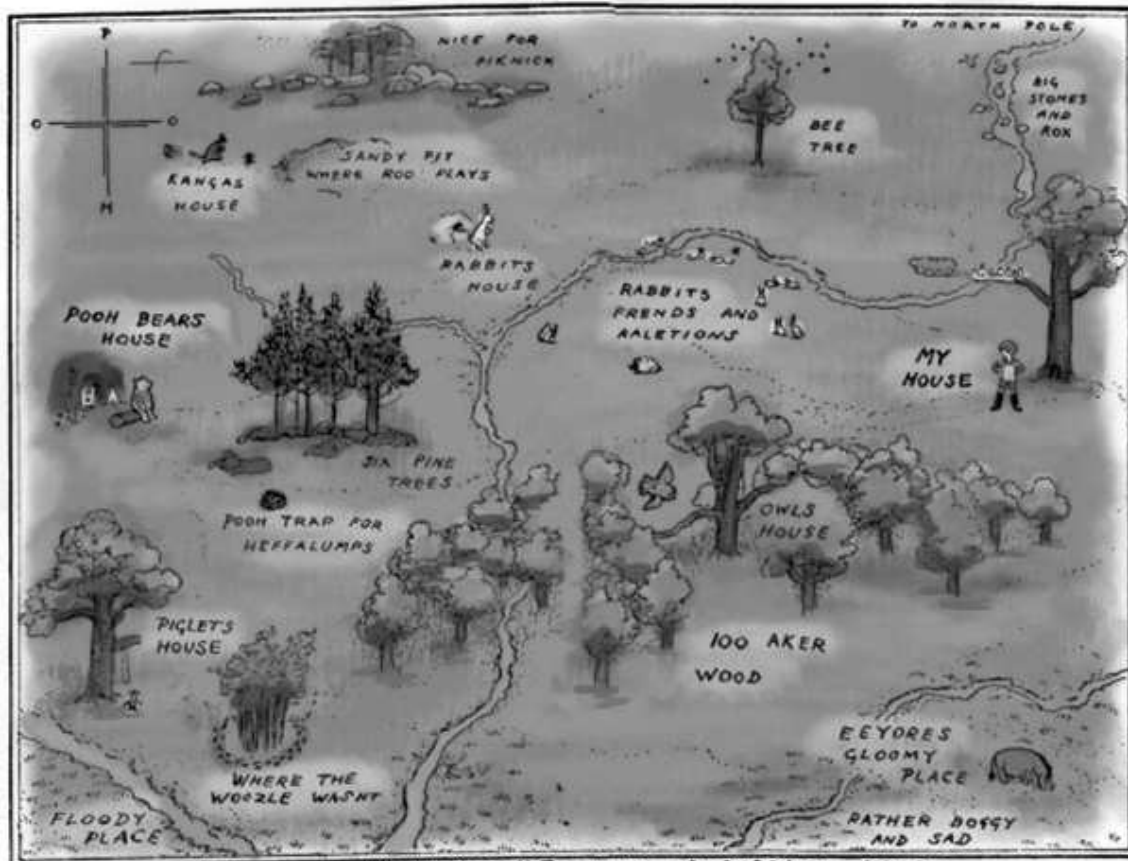
Winnie-the-Pooh. And he was. So, as I have explained the Pooh part, I will now explain the rest of it.

You can't be in London for long without going to the Zoo. There are some people who begin the Zoo at the beginning, called WAYIN, and walk as quickly as they can past every cage until they get to the one called WAYOUT, but the nicest people go straight to the animal they love the most, and stay there. So when Christopher Robin goes to the Zoo, he goes to where the Polar Bears are, and he whispers something to the third keeper from the left, and doors are unlocked, and we wander through dark passages and up steep stairs, until at last we come to the special cage, and the cage is opened, and out trots something brown and furry, and with a happy cry of "Oh, Bear!" Christopher Robin rushes into its arms. Now this bear's name is Winnie, which shows what a good name for bears it is, but the funny thing is that we can't remember whether Winnie is called after Pooh, or Pooh after Winnie. We did know once, but we have forgotten....

I had written as far as this when Piglet looked up and said in his squeaky voice, "What about *Me?*" "My dear Piglet," I said, "the whole book is about you." "So it is about Pooh," he squeaked. You see what it is. He is jealous because he thinks Pooh is having a Grand Introduction all to himself. Pooh is the favourite, of course, there's no denying it, but Piglet comes in for a good many things which Pooh misses; because you can't take Pooh to school without everybody knowing it, but Piglet is so small that he slips into a pocket, where it is very comforting to feel him when you are not quite sure whether twice seven is twelve or twenty-two. Sometimes he slips out and

has a good look in the ink-pot, and in this way he has got more education than Pooh, but Pooh doesn't mind. Some have brains, and some haven't, he says, and there it is. And now all the others are saying, "What about *Us?*" So perhaps the best thing to do is to stop writing Introductions and get on with the book.

*A. A. Milne*



DRAWN BY ME AND MR SHEPARD HELPD

# CHAPTER I

---



IN WHICH WE ARE INTRODUCED TO WINNIE-THE-POOH  
AND SOME BEES, AND THE STORIES BEGIN



Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump,

on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it. And then he feels that perhaps there isn't. Anyhow, here he is at the bottom, and ready to be introduced to you. Winnie-the-Pooh.

When I first heard his name, I said, just as you are going to say, "But I thought he was a boy?"

"So did I," said Christopher Robin.

"Then you can't call him Winnie?"

"I don't."

"But you said——"

"He's Winnie-ther-Pooh. Don't you know what '*ther*' means?"

"Ah, yes, now I do," I said quickly; and I hope you do too, because it is all the explanation you are going to get.

Sometimes Winnie-the-Pooh likes a game of some sort when he comes downstairs, and sometimes he likes to sit quietly in front of the fire and listen to a story. This evening——

"What about a story?" said Christopher Robin.

"*What* about a story?" I said.

"Could you very sweetly tell Winnie-the-Pooh one?"

"I suppose I could," I said. "What sort of stories does he like?"

"About himself. Because he's *that* sort of Bear."

"Oh, I see."

"So could you very sweetly?"

"I'll try," I said.

So I tried.

Once upon a time, a very long time ago now, about last Friday, Winnie-the-Pooh lived in a forest all by himself under the name of Sanders.



*("What does 'under the name' mean?" asked Christopher Robin.*

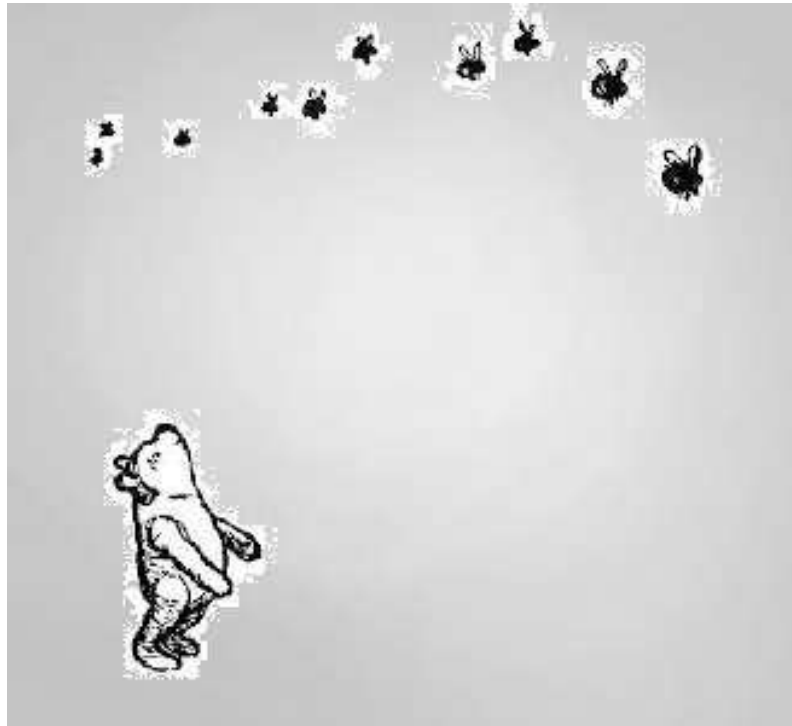
*"It means he had the name over the door in gold letters, and lived under it."*

*"Winnie-the-Pooh wasn't quite sure," said Christopher Robin.*

*"Now I am," said a growly voice.*

*"Then I will go on," said I.)*

One day when he was out walking, he came to an open place in the middle of the forest, and in the middle of this place was a large oak-tree, and, from the top of the tree, there came a loud buzzing-noise.



Winnie-the-Pooh sat down at the foot of the tree, put his head between his paws and began to think.

First of all he said to himself: "That buzzing-noise means something. You don't get a buzzing-noise like that, just buzzing and buzzing, without its meaning something. If there's a buzzing-noise, somebody's making a buzzing-noise, and the only reason for making a buzzing-noise that *I* know of is because you're a bee."

Then he thought another long time, and said: "And the only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey."

And then he got up, and said: "And the only reason for making honey is so as *I* can eat it." So he began to climb the tree.



He climbed and he climbed and he climbed, and as he climbed he sang a little song to himself. It went like this:

Isn't it funny

How a bear likes honey?