

Dadaist in its focus on "silliness," it created a humorous genre that led to Monty Python, Fawlty Towers, Are You Being Served, Blackadder, The Vicar of Dibley and the British comic style we see as typical today. Spike's first published book was one of poetry for children, "Silly Verse for Kids," in 1959. Having himself survived chaos, he saw childhood as precious time, spent in a different world from ours, inhabited by a different species, with a different language and a different agenda from that of adults. It is a young world from which he in his own time was propelled into conflict, and for which he clearly pines. His verse is charming, nonsensical, onomatopoeic, pensive, explosive, looney and vivid. It comes at the child with childish sounds, childish word-pictures and childish logic. There are holes in the sky, where the rain gets in... but they're ever so small; that's why rain is thin. Why would any small person, even in our age, need a more cogent, science-based explanation?" "Silly Verse" and Milligan's other six books of verse for children make up this anthology. The whole body of work, spanning 28 years, is a reflection of Spike's tenderness, concern for and vicarious enjoyment of what he didn't have time enough to enjoy, himself. He dedicated time from a hugely successful radio, television, writing (for adults) and film career, to enjoy these works, with his own children, then theirs, and at the same time, ours. They are wonderful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Spike Milligan's writing for children was wonderful. I loved these poems and stories as a ...By jkrynyc Spike Milligan's writing for children was wonderful. I loved these poems and stories as a kid, and now my daughter loves them. But this is one of the worst copy-edited books I have ever bought; the publishers should be ashamed of themselves. Five stars for Spike. Zero stars for the publisher.

This unique anthology of Spike's poems and stories for children presents his classic children's books in a way they have never been seen before. The large format gives ample scope to make the most of Spike's own illustrations, lovingly coloured specially for this book. The anthology comprises Silly Verse For Kids (1959), The Bald Twit Lion (1968), A Book of Milliganimals (1968). Unspun Socks From A Chicken's Laundry (1981), Sir Nobonk and the Terrible, Awful, Dreadful, naughty, Nasty Dragon (1982) and Startling Verse For All The Family (1987). Spike does not regard children as small grown-ups, but as an entirely different species who live in a secret, magical world which very few adults understand. His poems were inspired by listening to his own children, and subsequently his grandchildren, and marvelling at the way they could invent new words or incorporate sound effects into their everyday language. In 'borrowing' their language, Spike has created a range of poems and stories which are a delight to read to younger children, for older children to read themselves, or for grown-ups recapture some of the magic.

"A wonderful collection of Spike's stories and poetry for children. Some of them are funny, some of them downright strange, but they're all inventive, and imaginative" * Good Housekeeping * "Spike's illustrated autobiography will delight his many fans. Happily, the Family Album is untrammelled Milligan. The temptation to be sensible is resisted" * Books Magazine * About the Author Spike Milligan was born in India in 1918 and his career as a musician, actor, poet, scriptwriter and novelist spans over fifty years. His first book was published in 1959 and since then he has published many volumes of poetry, scripts, novels, letters and general humour. Spike was awarded the CBE in 1992 for his work as an entertainer, broadcaster and writer and in 1994 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the British Comedy Awards. In 2001 he was awarded an Honorary Knighthood. A tireless campaigner for animal rights, Spike lives in Sussex.