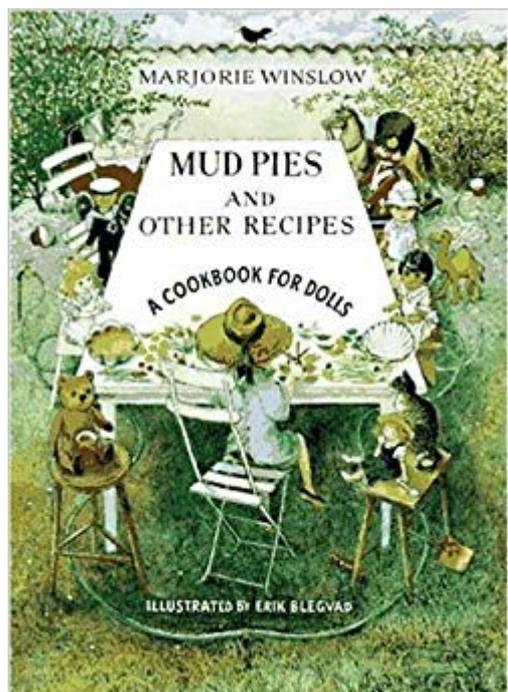


Mud Pies and Other Recipes: A Cookbook for Dolls by Erik Blegvad, Marjorie Winslow



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ISBN: 0802774873

ISBN13: 978-0802774873

Author: Erik Blegvad, Marjorie Winslow

Book title: Mud Pies and Other Recipes: A Cookbook for Dolls

Pages: 48

Publisher: Walker Childrens (March 1, 2001)

Language: English

Category: Activities Crafts & Games

Size PDF version: 1464 kb

Size ePUB version: 1991 kb

Size FB2 version: 1308 kb

Other formats: mobi lrf doc rtf

Any doll chef will tell you that no supermarket is as well-stocked as a forest, a sand dune, or your own backyard; and everyone knows that dolls love mud, when properly prepared.

For forty years, *Mud Pies and Other Recipes* has been the consummate cookbook for dolls, using only the finest ingredients found outside. All of the perennial doll favorites are here, including Dandelion Souffl , Wood Chip Dip, and, of course, Mud Pies.

This special 40th anniversary hardcover edition now includes a Tea Party in the menu section, so that dolls with discriminating palates will be prepared for every social occasion. Erik Blegvad's classically fetching illustrations provide the perfect dressing for Marjorie Winslow's outdoor cookbook for dolls.



Reviews of the **Mud Pies and Other Recipes: A Cookbook for Dolls** by Erik Blegvad, Marjorie Winslow

Marige

My grandmother gave this book to me in 1962, when I was 8 years old. Even though I lived in a suburb and didn't have forest or beach at my disposal, my imagination and I loved it nonetheless. It's actually one of my few childhood books I still have in my possession. Recently, I bought the New York Review edition for my 8-year-old granddaughter. It's beautifully rendered and completely faithful to the original.

When we visited our granddaughter this summer, we all had so much fun gathering ingredients for her dolls' tea party. Because they live in a more rural subdivision, a walk through the neighborhood yielded treasures galore for duplicating many of the recipes in the book. Our granddaughter organized all her ingredients in discarded egg cartons and pulled out her dolly tea set to serve doll and grandparent alike. The book even inspired her to invent her own "doll tea," which she brewed in the sun using leaves, herbs, and blackberries plucked from the canes that have pushed between the fence slats into the yard.

In a world of electronic gizmos and gadgets, *Mud Pies and Other Recipes* is a refreshing and timeless little book that harkens back to a gentler time and invites children outdoors to dream, create, play, and imagine.

Voodolkree

I have fallen in love with this little book. It brought back so many memories. I am one of the former (I am 81) mud pie makers/bakers in Petaluma, CA. I remember looking for just the right size rocks to use as "walnuts" on top of my cakes. This book will be handed down to the new generations in my family. Such a sweetie and love the illustrations.

Alsanadar

I really don't know why in the world I bought this book. Maybe for me?? I have a tween grandson who would never be interested at this stage. Maybe I'm trying to hold on to my children's younger years when we made mud pies. It is a must for someone who has little ones who like to cook. Stuffed sea shells that you make at the beach with sparkling sand. Daisy dip. with buttercups stem less of course. One of favorite is main course "Backyard Stew". Perfect for guest/ Gravel en Casserole... Happy Cooking.

Fegelv

I searched for this book for a long time. It was a book I had in childhood and I remember loving it. Found it, ordered it, and continue to love it. I now keep several in my house as giveaways to friends, family members and neighbors. The kind of tactile, imaginative play that is the subject of this book is the absolute anecdote to too many electronics (more abstract play). I love electronics also, but I think kids need a good amount of this kind of play. We all need some of this in our lives, come to think of it! I recommend this highly- a lovely gift.

I'm a children's school librarian, and this is one of my very favorites..

Whitegrove

The day I received this book, I walked right into my daughter's room to read it to her. The fact that it is written with a very serious air made her laugh all the more. (I recommend a British accent.) I explained to her that this recipe book was very special because I always made very similar meals for my dolls as a child and had always felt they were my exclusive ideas. I could see her eyes glowing with the magic of it all and we planned a dolly picnic for the morning. When I went to wake her up the next day, I noticed several little bears sitting around teacups full of some indistinguishable slop. She said, "I took your advice and made them some special tea so they could sleep. I used water, crumpled paper and perfume. And Mama, they LOVED IT!" For parents who want to make their

children's childhood as full of fantasy and dreams as possible, this book is a lovely imagination booster.

Uttegirazu

This was one of my favorite books as a child and I still delight in it as an older adult. Even if all of the ingredients mentioned in the book are not readily available, the book still provides inspiration for numerous backyard creations. I credit this book for my love of cooking and cookbooks now.

Landarn

For years I have mourned the loss of many of my girlhood books. My mother and other "well-meaning" people would periodically go through my room while I was at school and take away whatever they felt I was "too old" for, or whatever they didn't like, or whatever wasn't appropriate to their minds, and so forth. (This happened to children before the 1980s, when children began to be the focus of every family. Now kiddos basically rule the parents, and this stuff doesn't happen. Back then, it was absolutely routine and accepted. Your parents OWNED you and all your possessions.)

This cleaning-out included my bookshelves. During one of the periodic trashings, my copy of MUD PIES AND OTHER RECIPES by Marjorie Winslow disappeared. Of course I didn't know to look for it at the time; I was a busy third- or fourth-grader. By the time I missed the book, it was long gone. Why would they take a book that was sentimental to me, that was so dryly witty and readable, that was autographed by someone I no longer had contact with? They didn't see books as valuable, and still don't, in fact. But I always mourned the loss of this one, and I hoped someday to run across it at a used bookstore or flea market or antiques mall. It was one of the items from my Magical Childhood.

By serendipity I discovered it here. It's back in print!! Along with many other beautiful facsimile editions of various books I either remember from childhood or wish that I did. I went crazy when I saw this line from the New York Review of Books (bless those editors!) and ordered several of them--for myself. I will order copies for my friends' children for Christmas if inquiries prove out (that is, if the parents think these would be charmers for their children or themselves, and not just made into first base for the next kickball game.)

I ordered the book as soon as I saw it and really had a sweet moment of nostalgia when I unwrapped it. My original copy had been a gift from a beloved babysitter and neighbor when I was four or five. (I taught myself to read before I can remember, because I was the only child of two professors who sat around reading all evening long and sometimes all morning long--I had to learn in self-defense.) It's a beautiful little gift book, and still has all the dry wit that I remember. The illustrations are just as I recall, and bring back memories of sitting in the window seat reading through this and other books that my mother soon shamed me for having ("That's babyish!") and would soon give to undeserving (LOL) relatives or charities.

If only this one were signed "Love, Nancy--stay out of those chinaberries!"*

What exactly IS the book? It's a completely deadpan recipe book for dolls and stuffed animals. It presents playful recipes for Wood Chip Dip, See-Saw Salad, Roasted Rocks (wonderful with Chinaberry-Gardenhose Sauce), and Pencil Sharpener Pudding to be prepared for your dolls and stuffed animals--and presumably NOT eaten by you as a child. And it does this completely deadpan. If you like Bob Newhart and similar comedians, you will appreciate this type of gentle satire that presents something actually usable. Not that you'd really MAKE these things--or, if you did, it would be in the spirit of make-believe. Has everyone left the land of make-believe behind by the age of three? It sometimes seems so nowadays.

I imagine that one reason this book disappeared from the market for such a long period is partly

because of the nanny culture. "OMG NO KIDS WILL EAT THAT STUFF! TAKE IT AWAY!" No one gives children any credit for having good sense. YES, you should supervise your children and you should teach them not to put things like this in their mouths. But really, the audience for this book is not a two-year-old who tastes everything. Most kid readers of this book will immediately understand it is part of play, part of fantasy. They know it's ironic and that they're supposed to smile--and they will. Does anyone still make mud pies any more, or are they inside playing video games? My mother sat outside under her chinaberry tree when she was little (in the 1930s) and made all sorts of delicacies for her dolls' tea parties. So did I (in the 1960s). We both knew this stuff was not good to eat "for real." But we both turned out to be pretty good cooks later in life. Maybe this love for tea parties and entertaining (like that of Susie, the little girl in Calvin and Hobbes who still throws tea parties that Hobbes happily attends) is a GOOD thing, rehearsal for a fun part of real life. As is most play.

Stuffed seashells and boiled buttons can be a beautiful part of your teddy bears' picnic. Having a cookbook just like the big people's, but one that is whimsical and aimed right at you and your dolls, is priceless. While you're collecting raindrops for Fried Water, you might just see some nature close-up that's not on a National Geographic special. You'll get back to the earth and the garden in a way you perhaps haven't for a while. Whether you're feeding a regiment of toy soldiers or the fairies at the bottom of the garden (sprites love this stuff, while tinkerbells are cranky and perhaps best not included in these feasts), this cookbook will appeal to the inner child--the little girl inside us all who still believes in unicorns and twitching her nose to cast helpful spells like Harry Potter.

I believe that books like this added to my ability to imagine, which led to my being a lifelong writer. In fact, I finally got published (see my Amazon author pages--Denise Weeks for mystery/chick lit and Shalanna Collins for YA fantasy.) Even if you never publish, you should have a lively life of the mind. Do you want your children and your friends' children to have their own imaginations and not rely on just staring at a videogame or DVD to fill in all the blanks for them? Get them books like this that stimulate their own minds. It works.

This is a hardcover edition that's the size of the old Rod McKuen poetry gift books or the Holly Hobbie/Strawberry Shortcake books that I used to buy for my cousin's daughters back in the 1970s/80s. The recipes are like little free-verse poems. It's an appealing little book--weird, but fascinating--that your children will probably love as much as I did. Or maybe someone more grown-up who still has a sense of whimsy and humor and fun.

Need I even say--RECOMMENDED!!

* Chinaberries are deadly. Don't let your kids play with them because they MIGHT eat them. The book doesn't mention chinaberries at all; I only remember them because my mother gave such lectures on plants in our yard or our neighborhood that I MUST NOT TOUCH, even though she recalled putting them into her own mud pies. Perhaps this is only a problem if you live in rural Texas near a stop that hasn't been re-engineered with approved plantings that the owners of the McMansions nearby wanted. Any of you have a horseapple tree (Bodark apple) or other "messy" plant on your property? Cherish it. Teach the kiddos not to eat the stuff they find on the ground, by all means! But cherish the old species. We're kinda neat once you get to know us.

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