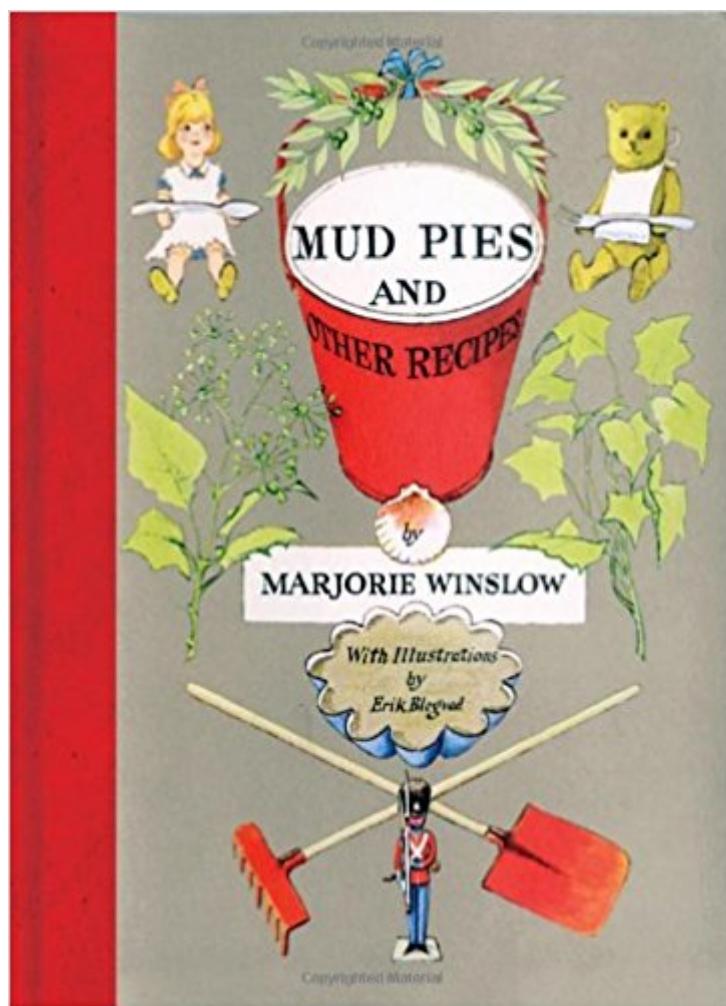


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# Mud Pies And Other Recipes (New York Review Children's Collection)



## Synopsis

Whether you're entertaining garden sprites, feeding a regiment of toy soldiers, or simply whiling away a lazy afternoon, *Mud Pies and Other Recipes* is the only make-believe cookbook you'll ever need. With Marjorie Winslow's timeless guide on hand, you'll never be at a loss for something to do in your backyard or by the seashore; you'll be busy scooping up sand (a filling for Stuffed Sea Shells), hunting for flower petals (they make lovely hors d'oeuvres), and collecting raindrops (essential for brewing up Fried Water). The book is organized by course, and includes a general discussion of yard cookery along with detailed ingredient lists, methods for preparation, and helpful serving suggestions. And on every page, Erik Blegvad's delightful pen-and-ink drawings ensure that *Mud Pies and Other Recipes* is a feast for the eyes as well as the imagination.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

This charming and fastidiously complete resource has been reissued thankfully by the New York Review Children's Collection. *Mud Pies* delights because, like the very best children's books, it gives young folks their due. Winslow's recipes appeal to the considerable wit, sophistication and imaginative prowess of many young children. Winslow's book is a gem. • "Prospero, on The

Economist websiteâ œWhen I was about five years old, Granny gave me my first cookbookâ "MudÂ Pies and Other Recipes. Even though it was a pretend cookbook, it somehow persuaded me that real cooking must be fun.â •â "Sara Moultonâ œThis is a free spirited, mildly subversive little cook book for dolls...the minutely observed, densely crosshatched drawings are the work of the late Danish-born illustrator, Erik Blegvad.â •â "Kim Koch and Rod Clarke, Scout Magazine (CAN)â "Designed for five-year olds, this will, I suspect, appeal to the little girl within us all...a charming beautifully illustrated handbook for doll's tea-parties and fairy picnics. A great stocking filler. Make sure you wrap it in pink tissue." -The Bookseller (UK)â œAn adorable little book with charming pictures and a deadpan text.â •â "Publishers Weeklyâ œThe childrenâ ™s book sensation of the yearâ |â •â "Newsweekâ œDelightfully digestibleâ |â •â "Lifeâ œHeaven on Earthâ "for the young and their readers-out-loud.â •â "Harperâ ™s Bazaarâ œOne of the most charming picture books ever published.â •â "Horn Bookâ œChildren will race with it to back yard, beach, or woods and get right to work.â •â "Chicago Tribuneâ œThe nicest oddball cookbook of the yearâ |it has Escoffier and Brillat-Savarin beat a literary mile.â •â "Lifeâ œâ |a haunting little engraving on each page and recipes that are poetry.â •â "Indianapolis News

No supermarket is as well-stocked as a forest, a sand dune, or your own backyard, and everyone knows that dolls dote on mud, when properly prepared.

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.

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 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.

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..

When I was a child I was loaned this book and it quickly became my favorite and first cookbook. Sadly , the book was returned and the name was forgotten. Over 50 years later I did a google search and rediscovered the book! I was afraid it might be too late for my granddaughters to enjoy the book, age 9 and 12 and we live in Arizona which doesn't have a lot of the "ingredients" but they both are enjoying it and have made some lovely creations from our local ingredients!

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 be interested at this stage. Maybe I'm trying to hold on to my children's youngers 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.

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.

I read this as a child and borrowed it from my school library as many times as they allowed. I'm happy to have found this and my other childhood faves for sale here on . My copy arrived in excellent condition and am now busy leafing through these pages and being transported back to those perfect summer days.

I am so very happy with my purchases of all 3 of my Mud Pies and Other Recipes:A Cook Book for Dolls. I purchased the used items and they were in wonderful shape. My Sisters and Cousins and I made alot of the recipes as young girls at our Grandmothers. She had an old rusted wood cook stove by the barn and we pretend baked so many of these recipes!! I saw the book at one of my

friends houses and just HAD to have copies of it for my Sisters. Buying used is really the way to go. I have recommended it to all my friends and family.

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