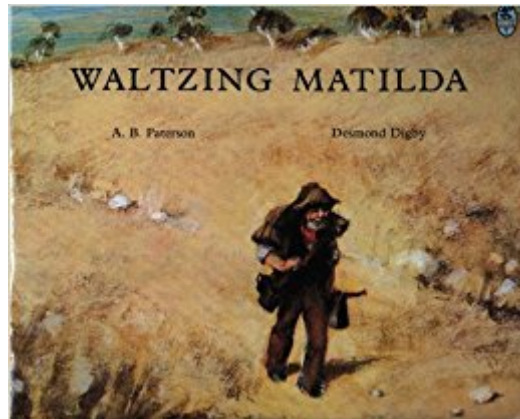


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# Waltzing Matilda (Australian Children's Classics)



## Synopsis

Beautifully illustrated by Desmond Digby, here is a new edition of Australia's most famous song. Beautifully illustrated children's paperback by much loved Australian Poet A.B Paterson . through a light lyrical verse, comes to life the story of a swagman who steals a sheep or 'jumbuck', and his ensuing police chase. Desmond Digby's painterly style of illustration with rustic colours, and a rugged looking swagman encapsulate the poet's Australian bush perfectly. the song was a collaboration between Christina MacPherson, who was responsible for the earliest version of the music, and Banjo Paterson, who wrote the words in 1895. As widely read today as it was 100 years ago, this is a must for all Australian children. Ages 4+

## Book Information

Series: Australian Children's Classics

Paperback: 36 pages

Publisher: HarperCollinsPublishers PTY Limited (August 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0207170983

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #491,363 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #145 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections](#)

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

The used copy I received is in good condition, but it smells OLD! The pictures are not as nice as I would like, and the lyrics are a little different than I was expecting.

Book is in great condition and dry love it

Here are all the words to that song and drawings to go with it. I grew up knowing only part of it. Now I know the rest. Sad story but reflects what can happen to a poor old man who takes a sheep to feed himself. He is not met with compassion and jumps in the billabong.

I recommend this for elementary music teachers to use with their upper elementary students when they are learning the song.

Here i am again, writing a 250 word review, for a book that likely has less words than that. A 25 page popup book illustrating the famous Australian song 'Waltzing Matilda'. This song is the most covered Australian song ever. This song was written in 1895, and even today is still popular with all ages. The popup book was a fun way to bring the song to life, and to introduce the song further to children in a fun singsong way. Another book read to me over skype by my friend. In case you don't know the lyrics: Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong Under the shade of a coolibah tree, He sang as he watched and waited 'til his billy boiled You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me He sang as he watched and waited 'til his billy boiled, you'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me Down came a jumbuck to drink at the billabong, Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee, he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker bag, you'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda you'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker bag, You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me Up rode the squatter, mounted on his thoroughbred, Up rode the troopers, one, two, three, With the jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag? You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me. Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me With the jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag? You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, you scoundrel with me. Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong, You'll never catch me alive, said he, And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong, you'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me. Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong, You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me. Oh, you'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.

In this wonderful book, noted Australian artist Desmond Digby takes A.B. Peterson's tune "Waltzing Matilda," and presents it as a beautifully illustrated story. Each page contains a line of the song, complete with a full-page painting. It is a very beautiful production. My one and only complaint against this book is that the author uses Peterson's original 1895 lyrics, whereas I, probably like most Americans, are more familiar with 1903 Billy Tea version of the song. I mean, I love to sing along with Waltzing Matilda, but the tune I am familiar with does not work with these lyrics. But, in truth that is a small complaint, and it is nice that Mr. Digby gives credit where credit is due and uses

the true Peterson lyrics. This is quite a charming, and well made book, and I really am glad that I saw it. If you like Australia, or Waltzing Matilda, then you really should check out this book!

This version of the poem is wonderfully illustrated by Desmond Digby. The colours and light are very evocative of when I was a small boy living in Australia. The pictures bring to life the aloneness and small pleasures of the swagman, his panic as the authorities decide (probably unjustly) to crack down on him, and even the fear of the 'jumbuck' (sheep) as the swagman "grabs him in glee". I sing this to my ten-month-old, and he absolutely loves it - it's a nice song, more involving than a shorter rhyme or lullaby.

The author and illustrator do a fine job of making this well-known Australian ballad come to life for the reader. The glossary which provides definitions for the Australian terms is also very helpful. I was very surprised to see that the reading level for this title is listed as baby-preschool. I have frequently used this book when teaching the ballad to third or fourth grade students. The many unfamiliar terms and the outcome of the story (the swagman commits suicide to avoid jail) would seem to make the book inappropriate for younger readers.

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