



2003

A House Called Awful End

Elizabeth Meyers

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Meyers, Elizabeth (2003) "A House Called Awful End," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 5 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss5/10>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Ardagh, Philip. *A House Called Awful End*. Illustrated by David Roberts. Henry Holt & Company, Inc., 2000. ISBN 0805068287. \$14.95. 119 pp.

Reviewer: Elizabeth Meyers

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Humorous stories; Adventure stories;

Subject: Great-uncles--Juvenile fiction; Great-aunts--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

Eddie Dickens' parents have decided to send him away for his own good. They've both caught a disease that has made them "turn yellow, go a bit crinkly around the edges, and smell of old hot-water bottles," and lest he catch the terrible malady, they've decided to ask Mad Uncle Jack and Mad Aunt Maud to have him live at Awful End, their home. Thus begins a series of highly improbable misfortunes, culminating in an escape from an orphanage inside a giant metal cow.

A House Called Awful End positively drips with silliness. Ardagh frequently takes common phrases and twists them delightfully by taking them quite literally. For instance, when Eddie gets into the carriage with Mad Aunt Maud, he notices that she is, well, mad and takes a seat opposite her. She screams at him to put the seat back, at which point the reader realizes that Eddie has literally picked up the seat. The plot, characters, and setting are not terribly developed, but mainly serve as props for the clever writing. If you're looking for a serious and engaging story, don't read *Awful End*. However, if you're interested in a book that will make you guffaw out loud this might be just the one you're looking for.