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Opening extract from
Now We are Six

Written by
A. A. Milne

Published by
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A.A. Milne
*with the original
illustrations by E. H. Shepard, in colour*

EGMONT

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TO
Anne Darlington

NOW SHE IS SEVEN
AND
BECAUSE SHE IS
SO
SPESHAL





INTRODUCTION

When you are reciting poetry, which is a thing we never do, you find sometimes, just as you are beginning, that Uncle John is still telling Aunt Rose that if he can't find his spectacles he won't be able to hear properly, and does she know where they are; and by the time everybody has stopped looking for them, you are at the last verse, and in another minute they will be saying, 'Thank-you, thank-you,' without really knowing what it was all about. So, next time, you are more careful; and, just before you begin you say, '*Er-h'r'm!*' very loudly, which means, 'Now then, here we are'; and everybody stops talking and looks at you; which is what you want. So then you get in the way of saying it whenever you are asked to recite . . . and sometimes it is just as well, and sometimes it isn't . . . and by and by you find yourself saying it without thinking. Well, this bit which I am writing, called Introduction, is really the *er-h'r'm* of the

book, and I have put it in, partly so as not to take you by surprise, and partly because I can't do without it now. There are some very clever writers who say that it is quite easy not to have an *er-h'r'm*, but I don't agree with them. I think it is much easier not to have all the rest of the book.

What I want to explain in the Introduction is this. We have been nearly three years writing this book. We began it when we were very young . . . and now we are six. So, of course, bits of it seem rather babyish to us, almost as if they had slipped out of some other book by mistake. On page whatever-it-is there is a thing which is simply three-ish, and when we read it to ourselves just now we said, 'Well, well, well,' and turned over rather quickly. So we want you to know that the name of the book doesn't mean that this is us being six all the time, but that it is about as far as we've got at present, and we half think of stopping there.

A. A. M.

P. S. – Pooh wants us to say that he thought it was a different book; and he hopes you won't mind, but he walked through it one day, looking for his friend Piglet, and sat down on some of the pages by mistake.

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SOLITUDE



I have a house where I go
When there's too many people,
I have a house where I go
Where no one can be;
I have a house where I go,
Where nobody ever says 'No';
Where no one says anything – so
There is no one but me.