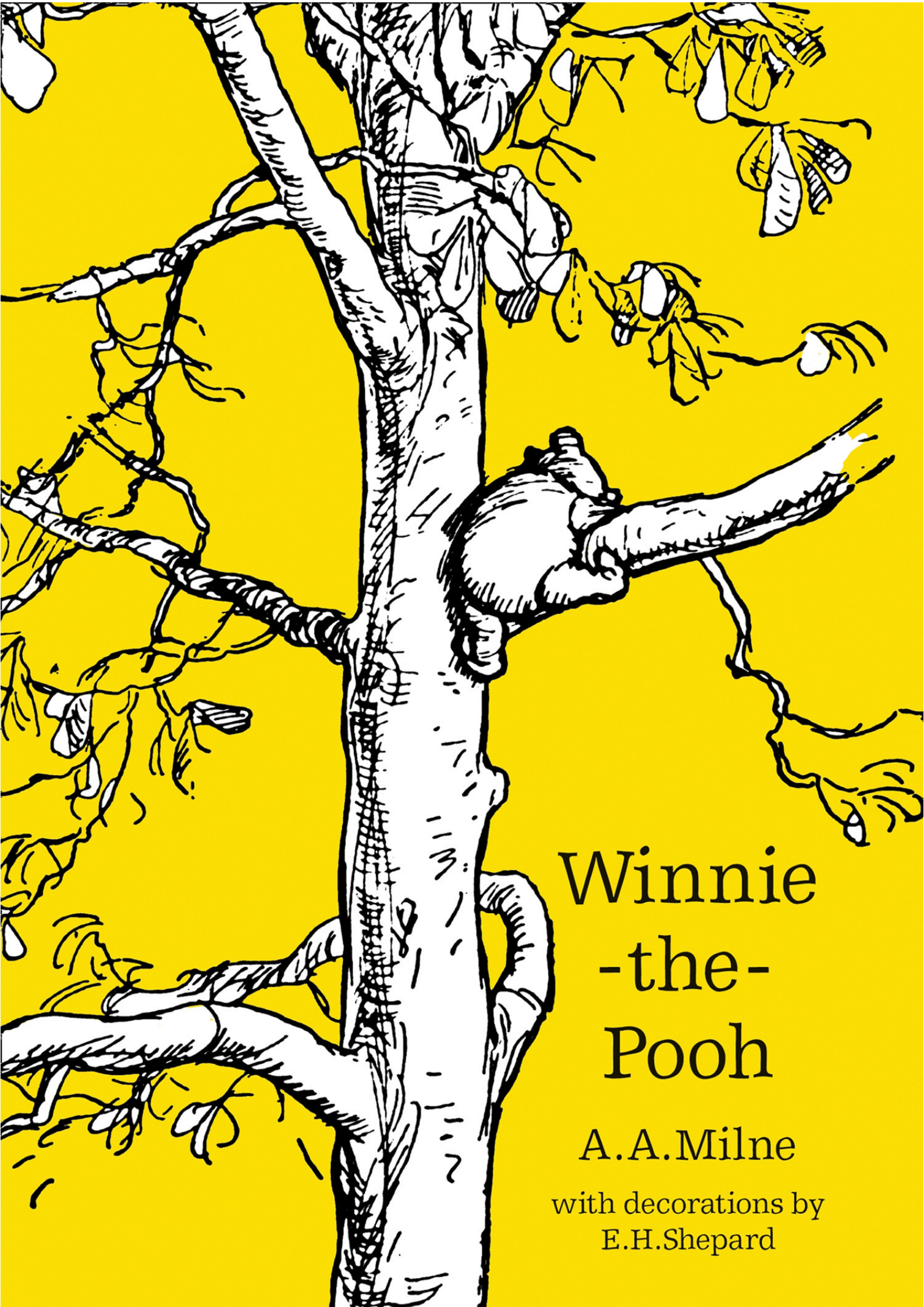




Winnie -the- Pooh

A.A.Milne

with decorations by
E.H.Shepard

A. A. Milne

Winnie-the-Pooh

«HarperCollins»

Milne A.

Winnie-the-Pooh / A. Milne — «HarperCollins»,

Once upon a time, a very long time ago now, about last Friday, Winnie-the-Pooh lived in a forest all by himself under the name of Sanders'Curl up with a true children's classic by reading A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh. Winnie-the-Pooh may be a bear of very little brain, but thanks to his friends Piglet, Eeyore and, of course, Christopher Robin, he's never far from an adventure. In this story Pooh gets into a tight place, nearly catches a Woozle and heads off on an 'expotition' to the North Pole with the other animals. In this stunning edition of Winnie-the-Pooh, A.A. Milne's world-famous story is once again brought to life by E.H. Shepard's illustrations. Heart-warming and funny, Milne's masterpiece reflects the power of a child's imagination like no other story before or since. Do you own all the classic Pooh titles? Winnie-the-Pooh The House at Pooh Corner When We Were Very Young Now We Are Six Also look out for Return to the Hundred Acre Wood and The Best Bear in all the World (coming soon) Pooh ranks alongside other beloved character such as Paddington Bear, and Peter Rabbit as an essential part of our literary heritage. Whether you're 5 or 55, Pooh is the bear for all ages. A.A. Milne is quite simply one of the most famous children's authors of all time. He created Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, Kanga and Roo based on the real nursery toys played with by his son, Christopher Robin. And those characters not only became the stars of his classic children's books, Winnie-the-Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner, and his poetry for children, they have also been adapted for film, TV and the stage. Through his writings for Punch magazine, A.A. Milne met E.H. Shepard. Shepard went on to draw the original illustrations to accompany Milne's classics, earning him the name "the man who drew Pooh....

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Содержание

Winnie	7
A.A. Milne	8
Copyright	9
TO HER	10
INTRODUCTION	11
Table of Contents	13
Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.	14

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A.A. Milne

with the original colour illustrations by E. H. Shepard

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We bring stories to life

Winnie-the-Pooh

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Egmont UK Ltd

239 Kensington High Street

London

W8 6SA

Visit our web site at www.egmont.co.uk

First e-book edition 2010

ISBN 978 1 4052 4943 0

TO HER

*Hand in hand we come
Christopher Robin and I
To lay this book in your lap.
Say you're surprised?
Say you like it?
Say it's just what you wanted?
Because it's yours—
Because we love you.*



INTRODUCTION

If you happen to have read another book about Christopher Robin, you may remember that he once had a swan (or the swan had Christopher Robin, I don't know which), and that he used to call this swan Pooh. That was a long time ago, and when we said good-bye, we took the name with us, as we didn't think the swan would want it any more. Well, when Edward Bear said that he would like an exciting name all to himself, Christopher Robin said at once, without stopping to think, that he was Winnie-the-Pooh. And he was. So, as I have explained the Pooh part, I will now explain the rest of it.

You can't be in London for long without going to the Zoo. There are some people who begin the Zoo at the beginning, called WAYIN, and walk as quickly as they can past every cage until they get to the one called WAYOUT, but the nicest people go straight to the animal they love the most, and stay there. So when Christopher Robin goes to the Zoo, he goes to where the Polar Bears are, and he whispers something to the third keeper from the left, and doors are unlocked, and we wander through dark passages and up steep stairs, until at last we come to the special cage, and the cage is opened, and out trots something brown and furry, and with a happy cry of 'Oh, Bear!' Christopher Robin rushes into its arms. Now this bear's name is Winnie, which shows what a good name for bears it is, but the funny thing is that we can't remember whether Winnie is called after Pooh, or Pooh after Winnie. We did know once, but we have forgotten. ...

I had written as far as this when Piglet looked up and said in his squeaky voice, 'What about *Me*?' 'My dear Piglet,' I said, 'the whole book is about you.' 'So it is about Pooh,' he squeaked. You see what it is. He is jealous because he thinks Pooh is having a Grand Introduction all to himself. Pooh is the favourite, of course, there's no denying it, but Piglet comes in for a good many things which Pooh misses; because you can't take Pooh to school without everybody knowing it, but Piglet is so small that he slips into a pocket, where it is very comforting to feel him when you are not quite sure whether twice seven is twelve or twenty-two. Sometimes he slips out and has a good look in the ink-pot, and in this way he has got more education than Pooh, but Pooh doesn't mind. Some have brains, and some haven't, he says, and there it is.

And now, all the others are saying, 'What about *Us*?' So perhaps the best thing to do is to stop writing Introductions and get on with the book.

A.A.M.

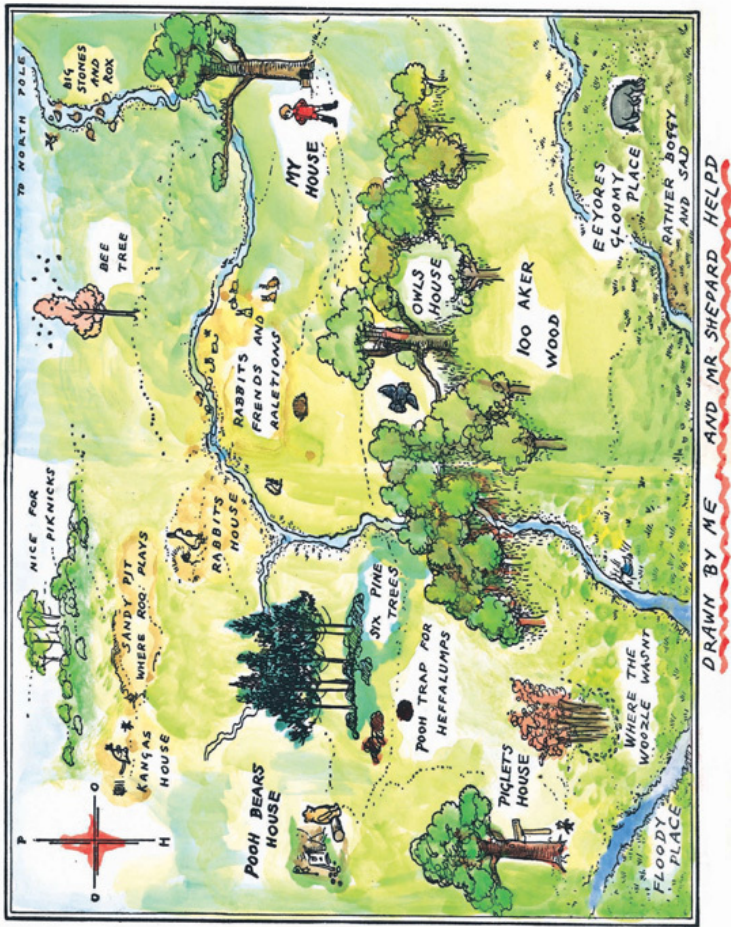


Table of Contents

[Cover Page](#)
[Title Page](#)
[Copyright](#)
[To Her](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Map](#)
[Chapter One](#)
[Chapter Two](#)
[Chapter Three](#)
[Chapter Four](#)
[Chapter Five](#)
[Chapter Six](#)
[Chapter Seven](#)
[Chapter Eight](#)
[Chapter Nine](#)
[Chapter Ten](#)
[Map](#)

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