



Remarkable Animals

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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Remarkable Animals offers '1000 Amazing Amalgamations'. This 'paperback' edition is in fact spiral-bound and printed on thin card. It needs to be sturdy to withstand repeated use. The author is working within an old tradition of dissolving pictures - medical students in the fifteenth century had textbooks which involved volvelles and lifting flaps. The design of this book is relatively simple compared, for example, to the cunning creations of the publishing house of Nister in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The book needs to be placed horizontally and consists of three sets of 'pages' side by side, which can be lifted separately (thanks to the spiral binding) to create new images. The lower three pages together create a picture of a creature whilst a verbal description and the name of the creature appear on the pages above. Thus you might start with a Platypus but can then lift the left-hand page to give it a new head, then the centre page to produce a new body, or the right-hand page to equip it with a new rear-end of some kind. (Hence the claim for 1000 amalgamations - I haven't done the maths.) Each time you turn over a picture page, a new verbal text is created which 'works' grammatically. The process also creates a new species; a Werpihoo, for example, combines the head of a weevil, the body of a caterpillar and the rump of a Mohohoo (a kind of rhino to you and me). The reader plays a version of Consequences, if you like, where the results are bizarre and sometimes amusingly non-sensical. The illustrations are bold in line and colour, slightly anthro-pomorphic in the creatures' facial expressions, and you can indeed believe the whole thing was great fun to create. It is pleasing for book-loving adults to envisage young children wearying of the technical delights of a computer game to turn to the slower pleasures of manipulating these pages, much as their great-great-grandparents might have done. The translation to paperback implies the success of the hardback, and one certainly hopes that this edition will find many readers.

Running Order:

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