



Creepy Castle

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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The very structure of movable books encourages their creators to surprise, and even shock, the reader - most famously in Jan Pienkowski's medal-winning **The Haunted House** (1979). The 'shock' usually provokes a smile rather than a scream - at most, a little gasp of pleasure prompted by the ingenuity of the artist/author/paper engineer. **Creepy Castle** is essentially a series of knock-knock jokes and two-liners, where the punch line is revealed as you open a door, peer into a coffin, lift a toilet seat or peep beneath the visor of a suit of armour. It is certainly charged with energy but the paper engineering falls far short of Pienkowski's huge bat suddenly rearing up towards you out of the pages, for example. The jokes, which come almost too fast and frenetically, may provoke groans or mild amusement but the constant barrage of similar quips diminishes the impact. The pictures are busy, noisy and inventive enough to invite exploration and most children like lifting flaps. But where Pienkowski asks you to come back again and again to delight in the sheer invention of the improbable craftsmanship, this book will not lead to many return visits.

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