

**EDDIE DICKENS**  
**EXTRACTS FROM FAN LETTERS**

If I could give an award for the funniest books ever it would go to you... Please, please, please keep on writing books that make me laugh all the time I'm reading them, hour after hour. PS I think most of the characters are clones of my sisters!

**Daniel, Bristol**

I'm going to tell all my friends to read your books and, when I see a book with your name on it I will definitely pick it up. **Lauren, 10, West Yorkshire**

I want you to send me many story books about Awful End... and a dictionary.

**Mensah, 13, Ghana, West Africa**

Thank you so much for writing [back] to me... I've recommended your books to my class mates and they all came back to me with a positive comment, so you must have done something right! **Daniel, Sevenoaks**

I real liked [your books]... I especially love to read them at night time because my imagination rumbles into gear and gets ready for new dreams to appear inside my head... **Oriade, 10, Wolverhampton**

Ey up my nutty chum/Phil/Philip/Philip Ardagh/Person who writes nutty books... does Malcolm feel better with his new nasal hair [*enclosed in her previous letter*] ? I hope he didn't have to undergo major surgery... PPPS. I bought *Dreadful Acts* today...PPPS. How do you pronounce your last name? **Jennifer, Nottingham**

I loved your book... it was full of laughs and giggles. If you are going to write funny stories where would you start? Where is the publisher that you used? **James, North Yorkshire**

I have read *Awful End* and think it is the best book in all history. **Ian, 9, Derby**

There isn't anyone as funny as you around (although I wish there was)... I personally think that my mum's a bit loopy (like Mad Aunt Maud)... [*printout of certificate with yellow seal and red ribbons:*] THIS SHOWS THAT PHILIP ARDAGH IS THE

FUNNIEST AURTHUR [sic] AROUND... Yours thankfully and a bit sincerely  
**Vanessa, Buckinghamshire, aged 10**

I told my friend all about your books. She bought [a] signed copy of *Awful End* the minute she got into Ottakers bookshop... She read the first few pages in the library and had to stop because she was in fits of laughter and kept on being told off by the librarians for being too loud. Ever since Malcolm came into the first book, he's been my favourite character. It's very clever how you can make a dead (obviously) stuffed stoat have such a main part in the story... When is the third book out? Please finish it soon. I can hardly wait. **Miriam, Barnstaple**

How old were you when you realised you could tell stories so well? **Daisy, London, aged 8**

I am 13 years old and I love your two books. Well, me *and* my sister, 15, father (an embarrassing) 40, *and* his girlfriend, 31 ... I am looking forward to reading the next and last in the trilogy but it's a shame there's only three. I hope you keep writing after them. I ... hardly read books, not that I can't read [it's] just that they have to make me turn the next page and try and get me to the end, which most books don't except for you, Michael Morpurgo [and] Terry Jones. **Thomas, Coniston, aged 13**

I would like to say thank you for writing *Awful End*. I read it in two days so I'm getting the second of the trilogy for Christmas. My favourite part in the story is when Mr Pumblesnook and Eddie get hit by Mad Aunt Maud's stuffed stoat Malcolm/Sally. P.S. Can I have your autograph? **Chloe, North Devon, aged 10**

Your book was originally for my brother... but it found its way into my hands (or, in other words, I wanted a good book so I stole my brother's). It's VERY funny!  
**Kirsty, 13, Ayr**

We are very much enjoying your book *Dreadful Acts*. Each of us have read it a number of times. We have brought it from our local library and borrowed it from our school library... We think you are a wonderful writer. Our names are Olivia, Suzanne and Becky. Yours sincerely, Olivia, Suzanne and Becky. (triplets) R.S.V.P. (That means you've got to reply.) [You guessed it] **Olivia, Suzanne & Becky, Clevedon, Somerset**

I got *Awful End* and *Dreadful Acts* for Christmas and I think they are fantastic. I think they are better than Harry Potter even though [the Harry Potter books] were brilliant. I wish Mad Aunt Maud were my aunt! **Lucy-Jane, East Sussex**

I really enjoyed reading *Awful End* and *Dreadful Acts*. I have never really enjoyed reading books but for the first time in my life I could not get my nose out of the book until I had finished it. **Ella, aged 10, Kent**

Both books are extremely funny, witty and very unpredictable. Where did you get so many hilarious sentences? I would again just like to compliment you on your two great pieces of art. **Danielle, aged 10, Kent**

I can't put it down, it's so riddikulusly funny. I also think you should make a film out of it. **Jack, 'Worcester'**

I am from the USA. When I first moved to London I didn't like it, but now I love it here. I really love your books. My favourite part in *Awful End* is when Eddie meets Mrs. Pumblesnook and sees all her disgusting habits... My favourite part in *Dreadful Acts* is when Eddie falls in love with Daniella, who has a face like a camel... My favourite character in *both* books is Even Madder Aunt Maud because she is really funny. Actually both books were really funny. **Courtney, London**

To Philip Ardagh. Here are my questions: 1. Why did [maids] have to sleep ... under the stairs if they didn't complete their course in making a proper bed? 2. Why did Gibbering Jane only mumble about hospital corners and ruckled chenille? 3. Why was Mad Uncle Jack in the wardrobe [at the beginning]? 4. Why did Eddie have to drink at least five glasses of lukewarm water a day? That's the end of my questions. Do you like my handwriting? **Jordan, St. Thomas, Exeter**

When I first saw you, I thought you were dressed up as Roald Dahl's Mr Twit. Then I realised that you wasn't. **Anonymous, Edinburgh**

**Awful End** is my favourite book... so far. I found it very funny. My sister liked it too and my mum. Have you written any more? **Bronte, 7, Somerset**

Your book was put on a pile. My dad read it and said it was excellent, so I finished my Harry Potter and read **Awful End** almost non-stop. I love it!'  
**Liberty, 11, Bournemouth**

Please, please, please could you try to find time to write back to me, and I will try to be patient. Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter. By what the book says, you sound like a very nice man. **Lauren**

I think you have an amazing imagination and deserve an award called The Book That Makes You Laugh The Most Award. Have you got any writing tips? Write back soon.  
**Kathryn, nearly 13, Fife**

If you are too busy to answer it does not matter because everyone else who I write to never answers me anyway... I am 12 years old... I like *Awful End*. My other brother is spiteful and does not read books, and my dad says television is better... Thank you for reading my letter, anyone else would throw my letters in the bin when they saw my name. **Anonymous**

I want to write [a book]. I need you to [...] think of a beginning, a middle and an end. Please can you help me? I think *Awful End* is one of the best books I've ever read.

**Kate**

My name is Holly and I love reading. Believe it or not, out of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Little Women*, *The Kin* and all other books I have read, *Awful End* is my favourite. I have read it 13 times and still laugh. Unfortunately, I just can't find the second book of the Eddie Dickens trilogy. Have you written it yet? When you reply, could you give me some tips on being an author? I've wanted to be [one] my whole life. (I also wanted to be a vet and an artist, but I can't stand the sight of blood and I can't mix paint to get the right colours.) From an admiring *Awful End* fan.

**Holly Jones, Islip, Oxfordshire**

I am just writing to say how much I enjoyed your adventures about Eddie. I was reading *Awful End* to my younger brother and sister but I found it so funny I took it to my room and it has been there ever since. Definitely a No 1 book of me. An absolute must have. P.S. Keep writing! **C.R. Little, Cromer, Norfolk, aged 11**

I bought *Dreadful Acts* because I was going to be on a train for eight hours up to Scotland for my uncle's funeral. [It] cheered me up during the journey ... and the time I was there and I would like to say thank you. **Ben, aged 14, Cricklewood**

I think your book is very funny ... my best friends are hoping to get your book for Christmas and my Bestest Friend is reading your book at the moment. **Rosie, aged 10 & 11/12ths, Newbury**

I love reading your books, so could you write EVEN MORE ... I like the whole story [and] how you put your ideas together! **Enoch, Ilford, Essex**

I have just this minute finished reading *Dreadful Acts*. Thank you oh so much for writing this as if you wrote it directly to me... my dad bought it for my brother so I just had to read it ... What on earth inspired you to write these? What with 'whittling carrots' and 'misty moors', explosions, escaped convicts, er-- gas explosions. Brilliant! It sounds rather like a fairy tale gone wrong! **Ellie, 12, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

I'm [a] very bubbly person and I'm about 155cm tall. I have very blond hair and I like any old thing. Luckily for me I have not quite reached that point in life where I fancy every boy with legs - thank god! As I say [for] the third time please write back as soon as possible. **Sarah, 13**

I think *Awful End* was brilliant... it was very funny. By the way, how are you? I'm fine. Will you be bringing another book out? I hope so. Well, I have to go. Bye.  
**Sinead, Swansea**

I do hope you write another story about Eddie Dickens and his mad family... By the way, why was Mad Uncle Jack in a ginger wardrobe at the beginning? **Deane, 12**

I love your book *Awful End*. It's very funny. Even my dad says so ... Is it fact or fiction? Do you actually know people like the characters? **Olivia, 8, Shrops**

A marvellous story of wit and a comic ending. It's not awful at all! **Mac, 2, Brisbane**

I have just finished reading *Awful End* and thoroughly enjoyed it. There was one thing that worried me. I am to be married next year and my mother-in-law-to-be bears a scary resemblance to Mad Aunt Maud! **Donna, 30, Portsmouth**