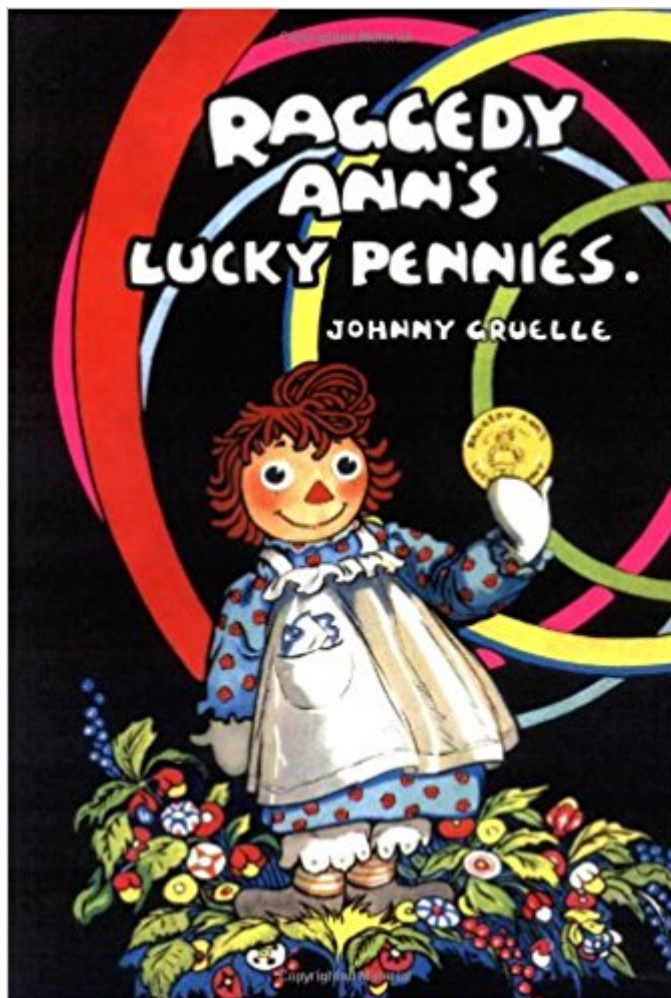


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# Raggedy Ann's Lucky Pennies



## Synopsis

When Raggedy Ann and Andy pick a lucky penny from the Lucky Penny Tree, they have no idea that it will lead them to all sorts of new friends and adventures! Right after they meet a prince who has lost his memory, they are captured by the wicked King Growch, who locks them up in his prison coop. They escape thanks to Lovey Lou and Ponko the puppy dog, and soon learn that there is a mystery at the King's castle -- and a missing prince. With the help of two nice witches, lots of wonderful friends, and their own wishing magic, the Raggedys do their very best to solve the mystery and restore happiness to the whole kingdom. Enter the world of Raggedy Ann and Andy and delight in their whimsical escapades as they share their kindness and cheer with one and all. Raggedy Ann's Lucky Pennies is one of the most charming Raggedy Ann storybooks. First published in 1932, it has now been restored to its original condition with spectacular full-color artwork. Readers will want to follow this tale to the end again and again.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing (October 1, 2003)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 13.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Johnny Gruelle (1880-1938) was an extremely talented cartoonist, illustrator, and storyteller. He had already written and illustrated a book of original fairy tales before creating the first two Raggedy books, Raggedy Ann Stories and Raggedy Andy Stories. Raggedy Ann, heroine of the first, was the favorite doll of his daughter, Marcella, who died at the age of thirteen after a long illness. It was from Marcella that Johnny drew the inspiration to eventually create more than forty Raggedy Ann and Andy books, all capturing his unique vision of childhood. Many of the stories, illustrations, and

adventures in the Raggedy Ann storybooks were based on Marcella's childhood adventures. Raggedy Ann's Lucky Pennies has become one of Johnny's most treasured adventure storybooks.

These were the stories my Dad read to me as a kid. They ought to be available to a new generation of children via all the major B&M bookstores. But as someone who once worked in a bookstore for five years in college back in the '90s, I observed even then that these works were never stocked. As a result, too few children are exposed to Johnny Gruelle's timeless classics. These are incredibly imaginative and whimsical stories, with illustrations completely unlike anything produced by anyone else (meaning much better than most children's illustrators/cartoonists' today). But more than that, these books convey values of kindness, compassion and the Golden Rule. Every children's librarian should stock Gruelle's books and every major bookstore should carry at least some of these classics. Back in the '70s and even into the mid '80s the dolls were ubiquitous. By the '90s, however, the dolls and the stories seemed to fall off the map. It would seem that because Disney never gained control of these classic characters, they have fallen out of the mainstream. That's a real shame and I wish the Gruelle estate/hometown would work harder to publicize these works to a new generation.

My Mother read this to me and we read almost all of the series and I looked forward to story time and the gentler stories of several years ago.

Raggedy Ann's Lucky Pennies is a lovely story of how a rag doll found a penny growing on a tree, that brought good luck. It did not seem that way at first, as Raggedy Ann and Andy, with a young man who had been made to forget that he was the prince who ruled that territory, and another young man transformed into a donkey named Noodles, were captured by King Growch, who was NOT the rightful ruler but the former commanding general of the prince's army. Yet that Lucky Penny helped the lost prince regain his memory, reminded him that he was the beloved Prince Bonnie, the rightful sovereign. That Penny helped a knight who had been discharged remember that he was king (and Mrs. Knight his consort) of a nearby kingdom, that Growch's scullery maid Lovey Lou was their Princess, AND that Winnie-the-Witch was NOT so wicked but really Princess Winnie! (Another witch named Sylvia, alias, Wanda-the-Witch, was pretty and very nice, freed Noodles from his transformation and revealed him as Prince Donald, heir apparent to the knight-king's throne.) One of the most amusing parts of this story was Winnie's having Raggedy Ann and her friends bring back some gifts for the mean king-- a pint of water carried by a string, a tissue paper filled with fire,

a giant in a bottle, and a pie that would sing when cut. Winnie, the SUPPOSEDLY Wicked Witch who was really a NICE lady, brought back silly common things: an ice cube on the string and four fireflies in the tissue. Growch suspected that the giant in the bottle was another silly common thing that he should have thought of himself, and the singing pie was not mentioned. When, at the end, the mean king broke the tiny bottle on a rock, there was explosion, which killed him. (Was the "giant" really a grenade?) It would have been more fun if the king DID cut the pie; if it sang, it would have been just a battery-powered record player! Another silly common thing! Yet, it was this "giant" as well as the Lucky Penny that led to the death of the false king and the restoration of Prince Bonnie to his throne, which brought happiness to his subjects, AND restored the former knight to HIS throne in the nearby kingdom. All in all, a very nice story.

This is by far my favorite Raggedy Ann story. Funny, exciting, and sweet as always. My 3-year-old daughter asks me to read to her from it so often that we have finished the book four times!

I AM QUITE PLEASED WITH THIS BOOK, IT WAS EXACT ITEM I WAS LOOKING FOR AND WAS LISTED PROPERLY AND DESCRIBED IN DETAIL. THANKS FOR HAVING IT AVAILABLE. I WILL PURCHASE AGAIN FROM .

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