

Biography: Ieva Melgalve (1981) is a science fiction and fantasy writer with literary influences. She has also written books for children and young adults. Her first book was a collection that included her first short story and a play entitled *The Break- Even Point* (1999). In 2013, she self-published her play *The Un-humans*. In the same year, her fantasy novel *The Dead Don't Forgive* was published and subsequently shortlisted for the 2013 Annual Latvian Literature Award.

Synopsis: Once upon a time there lived a mom who ate children... No, this isn't a horror story, but a funny picture book to read and enjoy together with your child. This book helps a child understand that eventually they will grow up and learn to be independent. After spending time together laughing and playing games ("I am going to eat you now!"), it's time to hug each other!

Excerpt

Once upon a time, there was a mommy who ate children.

One child was round and sweet. He smelled of cookies and milk. And his hands were covered in ice cream.

Mommy wanted to lick the dirty little finger and ate the child by accident – SLURRP!

Another child was soft and aromatic. He had just washed himself and cleaned his teeth and crawled into the bed with mommy.

Mommy tucked him in nicely and ate him – MMMMYUMM

Yet another child was very fond of funny rhymes.

Mommy did pat-a-cake with the child so long that finally got a hot cross bun and ate him–

nom, nom, nom.

And yet another child liked fairy tales. He said to mommy – why do you have such a big mouth?

And mommy said: so that I could eat you better. – CHOMP!

But there was a child who was willful and prickly like a little hedgehog.

And mommy could not eat that child.

The child, that little hedgehog, became all sulky and pouty and said:

When I was round and sweet, then you ate me SLURRP.

When I was warm and all clean, then you ate me MMMMYUMM.

When I did nursery rhymes, then you ate me nom, nom, nom.

And when I listened to fairy tales you ate me CHOMP.

But who will eat me now?

So mommy picked up the little hedgehog carefully. (Ouch!)

And said: you are no little hedgehog, you are just a prickly little egg.

The prickly coat will split, a bear will tumble out and will grow tall as a house.

And then he will eat the whole world: am, am, am.