

**Acceptance Speech by Igor Oleynikov at the IBBY Congress, Athens, Greece  
31 August 2018**

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the International Board on Books for Young People and the Jury of Hans Christian Andersen Award for the high appreciation of my works, therefore I am standing here in front of you. Thank you!

Now I think it is time to pay tribute to the respected writer Eiko Kadono. As she was absent in Bologna at the moment when the winners were announced, all the well-wishing and congratulations were given to me alone. It was too much for one person. I want to give half of those congratulation to her right now! My congratulations to you, Eiko!

It is my idea to show you how I work with literary texts. How it is possible, though it is highly recommended not to fill old wineskins with new wine, to do it. This is now my creative process has been developing for several years already.

I hope it will come out well.

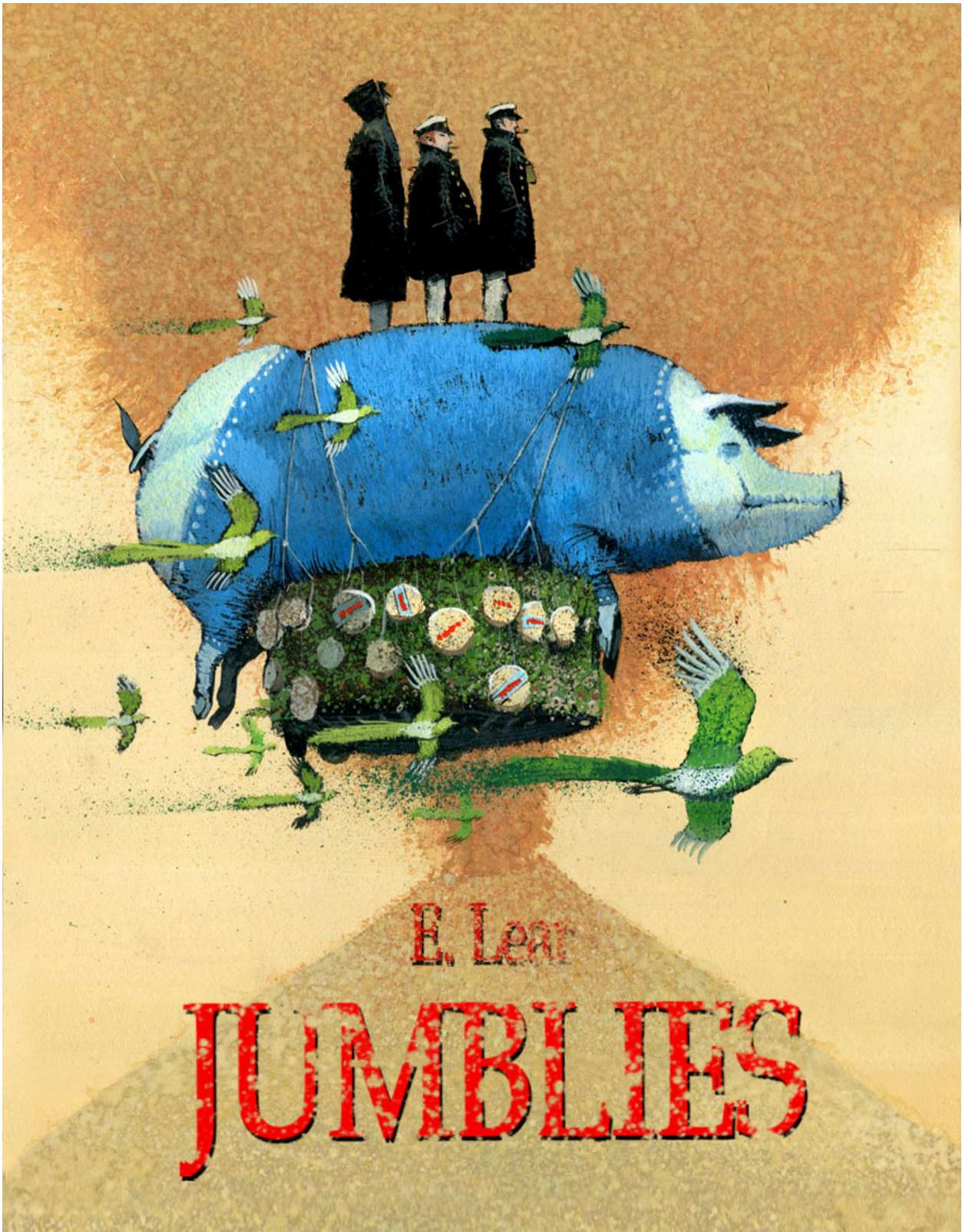
There is a poem called *Jumblies* by Edward Lear. It is about the Funny and the Absurd (as many of his works). It is about the journey of a group of sailors (very likely children) in a sieve towards a far-far away island, where strange *Jumblies* with green heads and blue hands live. Their friends are trying to persuade them from this dangerous trip, sailors they meet on their way are terrified by their recklessness. But the far away island lures them to go further, coming closer and closer. The sailors land on the Island, they buy a pile of strangely absurd things, and after 20 years that their voyage took them, they come back considerably grown up. Their friends made a big holiday on their return and swore to perform the same journey to the Island of *Jumblies*. And this is basically it.

This poem is relatively well-known, it was and still is definitely perceived as a joke and fun. I was also desperately interested to know who those *Jumblies* were, and what is really going on in this story. This is what I understood.

***Slide Show***

This is my way to fill old wineskins with new wine. This is my attempt to give a new meaning to the habitual literary work. Probably it will encourage the readers to make their own conclusions and see the new meaning in the old wineskins. At least I hope so.

Thank you so much!



E. Lear

# JUMBILIES