



On a difficult day?!

### Beschrijving



Winnie the Pooh on a difficult day

“Today was a Difficult Day,” said Pooh.

There was a pause.

“Do you want to talk about it?” asked Piglet.

“No,” said Pooh after a bit. “No, I don’t think I do.”

“That’s okay,” said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend.

“What are you doing?” asked Pooh.

“Nothing, really,” said Piglet. “Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don’t feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either.”

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“But goodness,” continued Piglet, “Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you’ve got someone there for you. And I’ll always be here for you, Pooh.”

And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs he thought that his best friend had never been more right.

**A.A. Milne**

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## Alan Alexander Milne

**Alan Alexander Milne** (1882 – 1956) was an English author, best known for his books about the teddy bear *Winnie-the-Pooh* and for various poems. *Milne* was a noted writer, primarily as a playwright, before the huge success of Pooh overshadowed all his previous work. *Milne* served in both World Wars, joining the British Army in World War I, and as a captain of the British Home Guard in World War II.

Though he went to Cambridge to study mathematics, Milne began to focus on writing while still a student. After getting his degree in 1903, he pursued a career as a writer and was soon producing humorous pieces for the magazine *Punch*. Milne took on the duties of assistant editor at *Punch* in 1906.



Alan Alexander Milne (1882-1956)

### World War I

During World War I, *Milne* saw action as a soldier, including at the *Battle of the Somme*. When illness rendered him unfit for the front, his writing talent led to his being tapped to join a secret propaganda unit, MI7b, in 1916.

At the time, the mounting toll of World War I had dimmed public support and an anti-war movement was growing. The goal of *Milne*'s propaganda unit was to bolster support for the war by writing about

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British heroism and German bastardliness.

Despite being a pacifist, *Milne* followed the orders heâ??d been given. But at the end of the war, he was able to express how heâ??d felt about the work. Before the group disbanded, a farewell pamphlet, *The Green Book*, was put together. It contained contributions from many MI7b writersâ??and *Milne*â??s sentiments can be seen in these lines of verse:

â??In MI7B,  
Who loves to lie with me  
About atrocities  
And Hun Corpse Factories.â?•

## Playwright

Following his service in World War I, *Milne* became a successful playwright (along with original plays, he penned adaptations, such as turning *The Wind in the Willows* into the successful *Toad at Toad Hall*). *Milne* also authored a popular detective novel, *The Red House Mystery* (1922).

## Wodehouse and Barrie

As a young man, *Milne* was friends with author *P.G. Wodehouse*, creator of the unflappable butler *Jeeves*. The two even joined *J.M. Barrie* â?? the man behind *Peter Pan* â?? on a celebrity cricket team. However, *Wodehouse* made a decision during World War II that *Milne* could not forgive.

## World War II

*Wodehouse* had been living in France when the German army swept through. He was taken into custody and sent to live in a civil internment camp. But when the Germans realized just who theyâ??d captured, they took *Wodehouse* to a luxury hotel in Berlin and asked him to record a series of broadcasts about his internment. *Wodehouse*, to his later regret, agreed.

In the talks, which were broadcast in 1941, *Wodehouse* maintained a light, inconsequential tone that didnâ??t go over well during wartime. Among his harshest critics was *Milne*, who wrote to the *Daily Telegraph*: â??Irresponsibility in what the papers call â??a licensed humoristâ?? can be carried too far; na~vet~© can be carried too far. *Wodehouse* has been given a good deal of licence in the past, but I fancy that now his licence will be withdrawn.â?•

(Some speculated that *Milne*â??s main motivator wasnâ??t anger but jealousy; at the time, *Wodehouse* continued to receive literary acclaim while *Milne* was just seen as the creator of *Winnie the Pooh*.)

The rift continued even after the war ended, with *Wodehouse* stating at one point: â??Nobody could be more anxious than myself â?? that Alan Alexander *Milne* should trip over a loose bootlace and break his bloody neck.â?•

## Winnie the Pooh

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Milne is most famous for his two *Pooh* books about a boy named *Christopher Robin* after his son, *Christopher Robin Milne* (1920–1996), and various characters inspired by his son's stuffed animals, most notably the bear named *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

*Christopher Robin Milne*'s stuffed bear, originally named Edward, was renamed *Winnie* after a Canadian black bear named *Winnie* (after *Winnipeg*), which was used as a military mascot in World War I.

*The Pooh* comes from a swan the young Milne named *Pooh*. The rest of *Christopher Robin Milne*'s toys, *Piglet*, *Eeyore*, *Kanga*, *Roo* and *Tigger*, were incorporated into *A.A. Milne*'s stories.

*Christopher Robin Milne*'s own toys are now on display in the *New York Public Library Main Branch* in New York, where 750,000 people visit them every year.

*Pooh* first appeared in the *London Evening News* on Christmas Eve, 1925, in a story called *The Wrong Sort of Bees*. *Winnie-the-Pooh* was published in 1926, followed by *The House at Pooh Corner* in 1928.

*Winnie the Pooh*, the *Bear of Very Little Brain*, continues to be a bear with lots of fame. In fact, *Pooh* is honored every January 18th, otherwise known as *Winnie the Pooh Day*. That particular date was chosen because it's the birthday of Alan Alexander Milne.

**Datum aangemaakt**

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