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Kurt gets Truckloads by Erlend Loe illustrated by Kim Hiorthoy

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It's quite common to hear people say, 'If only I could win Lotto.' Children also dream of winning or finding lots of money, but they may not realise that too much wealth can cause problems.

When kind-hearted, hard-working Kurt saves a sailor from drowning, the grateful man gives him a football-size diamond. Kurt sells the diamond in exchange for a trailer-load of money.

For a short time, his wife and three children are excited about all the things they can do with their new wealth. Then the money becomes an obsession with Kurt and he turns mean. Not just a little bit mean, no, Kurt becomes over-the-top, stupendously, jaw-droppingly nasty and unkind.

The author develops Kurt's personality change with outlandish humour and cringe-making bad taste. Readers of any age who might be tempted to try a get-rich-quick scheme or rob a bank, will quickly get the message that money doesn't buy you friends, nor make you happy.

The money gives Kurt a feeling of power that he likes. He decides he wants to be someone important like the Prime Minister. What a surprise he has waiting for him.

Quirky line drawings develop the characters well and accentuate the tongue-in-cheek humour. An amusing, cautionary tale for all the family to enjoy.

**Reviewed by children's author
Jean Bennett**

