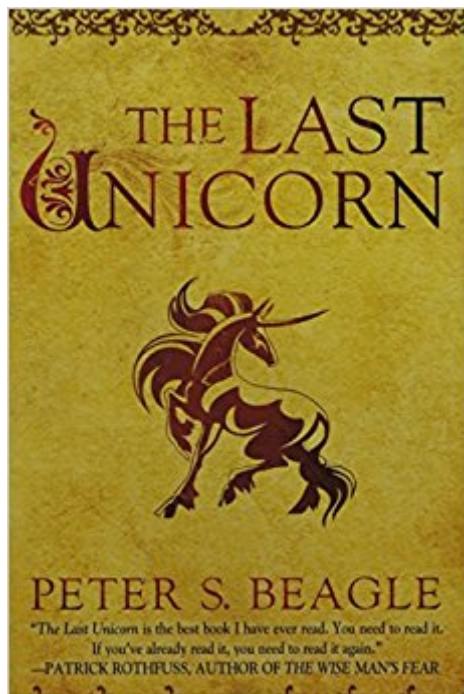


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The Last Unicorn



Synopsis

Fall in love with Peter S. Beagle's bestselling classic fantasy. The unicorn lived in a lilac wood, and she lived all alone. So she ventured out from the safety of the enchanted forest on a quest for others of her kind. Joined along the way by the bumbling magician Schmendrick and the indomitable Molly Grue, the unicorn learns all about the joys and sorrows of life and love before meeting her destiny in the castle of a despondent monarch... "The Last Unicorn" is the best book I have ever read. You need to read it. If you've already read it, you need to read it again. #1 New York Times Bestselling Author Patrick Rothfuss

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Last Unicorn is one of the true classics of fantasy, ranking with Tolkien's The Hobbit, Le Guin's Earthsea Trilogy, and Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. Beagle writes a shimmering prose-poetry, the voice of fairy tales and childhood: The unicorn lived in a lilac wood, and she lived all alone. She was very old, though she did not know it, and she was no longer the careless color of sea foam but rather the color of snow falling on a moonlit night. But her eyes were still clear and unwearied, and she still moved like a shadow on the sea. The unicorn discovers that she is the last unicorn in the world, and sets off to find the others. She meets Schmendrick the Magician--whose magic seldom works, and never as he intended--when he rescues her from Mommy Fortuna's Midnight Carnival, where only some of the mythical beasts displayed are illusions. They are joined by Molly Grue, who believes in legends despite her experiences with a Robin Hood wannabe and

his unmerry men. Ahead wait King Haggard and his Red Bull, who banished unicorns from the land. This is a book no fantasy reader should miss; Beagle argues brilliantly the need for magic in our lives and the folly of forgetting to dream. --Nona Vero

Since it was first published in 1968, Beagle's beloved fantasy novel has been made into a stage play and a film— and now this gorgeous, emotive graphic novel adaptation. Set in a fully realized but slightly tongue-in-cheek fantasy world that has inspired everything from *The Princess Bride* to *Stardust*, Beagle's story is a romantic fable about a regal unicorn who leaves the forest she has protected since time immemorial to find more of her kin. After a short spell of imprisonment by a witch's traveling circus, she journeys onward with an accident-prone magician, hoping to find the answer to her quest in the land of a coldhearted king and a monstrously fearsome red bull. Along the way, the unicorn and her good-hearted but hapless companion have many encounters, including one with a Robin Hood—œuesque group of bandits who seem dropped in from a *Monty Python* skit. Beagle's sumptuously descriptive writing, adapted ably by Gillis, casts a spell throughout, while De Liz's glowing, painterly artwork meshes perfectly with the haunting otherworldly beauty of the story. (Feb.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Heartbreakingly beautiful. The best way I can think to instill the lesson that some things simply are and the world is no less wondrous or mysterious for that. There is no such thing as happily ever after for nothing truly ends.

I'm a latercomer to this book. I saw *The Last Unicorn* as an animated film when I was a child. It was one of the most enchanting stories I have ever heard. It remains one of my favorite childhood movies of all time and recently purchased the film on . The opening lyrics to the main theme (sung by the talented America) still tugs at my soul when I hear it. Not long ago, I recently visited the Cloisters Museum in New York where the author, Peter Beagle, was inspired to write his story when he saw the depiction of a unicorn in that marvelous museum. I recall just staring at the unicorn and being filled with the same wonder as a boy. Many years later, I finally purchase and read the novel that started it all. It does not defer much from the movie. A female unicorn wanders from her enchanted forest in search of others of her kind. She finds the world of men has all but forgotten her people to the point where they don't even recognize what she is (most just see her as a stunning white mare). The story follows her adventure across a world that has forgotten magic, a world without wonder.

Some, though, can see her for what she is, namely Schmedrick the bumbling magician and Mary Grue, a homely but courageous woman, who accompany her to the castle of King Haggard, the man responsible for herding all the unicorns of the world into the sea by commanding a terrible monster, the Red Bull. One thing I enjoy about movies based on books is the differences between them. Like most readers, I almost always prefer the book to the movie and had I read the *Last Unicorn* as a boy, I'd have felt the same way. I feel I was too late in coming to be truly whisked away into the fantasy that this tale must have held for countless readers through the years. I enjoyed it, sure, but it's almost exactly like the movie itself, with very few deviations. That said, the magic is still there, you just really have to look for it.

I remember as a child, being sick, at home, and watching TV. "The Last Unicorn" came on TV, and I was hooked, completely and utterly hooked - It actually was a huge part of my childhood, a real shaping movie, I loved it. When I had my first child, I wanted to share that movie with her, and she loved it as much (if not more) than I did. It is a huge part of our lives. However, my daughter is definitely more into snuggles and reading, but I didn't think she was quite ready for the actual book. So I got this! The illustration is beyond words, it's amazing, it definitely has a sort of comic-book anime/manga feel to it, it has bought us so close, to snuggle together, read, but have plenty of pictures to help her follow along the story. This book will be with us until it turns to dust, I cannot wait to read it to my other children when they grow up a little more! I love reading this book. It's truly magical

First, I never saw the movie, but am a big fan of "A Fine and Private Place," so I came to the book with a combination of agnosticism and anticipation. The mythology is obvious from the beginning, with charming episodes but plodding prose. Then, about halfway through, the village of Hagsgate, King Haggard and his castle, the Red Bull, and Prince Lir enter, and the quality of Beagle's writing leaps. You start rereading sentences for the joy of their concretions, observations, and semantic revelations. The story itself proceeds along expected lines, but you don't care about that. Your world has been expanded.

I remember watching this cartoon as a kid, and wimp that I was, having tons of nightmares about Mommy Fortuna. That was one scary bi-atc! Still, fond memories abounded when I came across this book, and I was very excited to read it and see how it matched up with my childhood recollections of the story. I came away with this: This is no children's fairy tale. You need to be an

adult to fully appreciate everything this story has to offer. Aside from it being beautifully written, it contains numerous thought-provoking themes, my favorite one being the nature of a hero. (Love that Prince Lir!) This tale is full of humor and sadness, hope and despair, and of course, regret. Despite its short length, it took me a long time to read this book. Not because it was boring, but because I found myself going back so many times to re-read a certain line or paragraph. The dialogue is wonderful - here are some of my favorite lines to spout from the characters' mouths: "Of course you are right. She is here, they are all here, and whether they mean my doom or not, I will look at them for a while. A pleasant air of disaster attends them. Perhaps that is what I want." "The prince is very brave to love a unicorn. A cat can appreciate valiant absurdity." "I have time," the skull replied reflectively. "It's really not so good to have time. Rush, scramble, desperation, this missed, that left behind, those others too big to fit into such a small space--that's the way life was meant to be. You're supposed to be too late for some things. Don't worry about it." "The happy ending cannot come in the middle of the story."

I have seen the movie many times. When I saw this I knew I had to grab it. The art in this is beautiful and so detailed! It's just I can't think of another adjective here but if you like beautiful art and a beautiful story and unicorns grab this while you can!

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