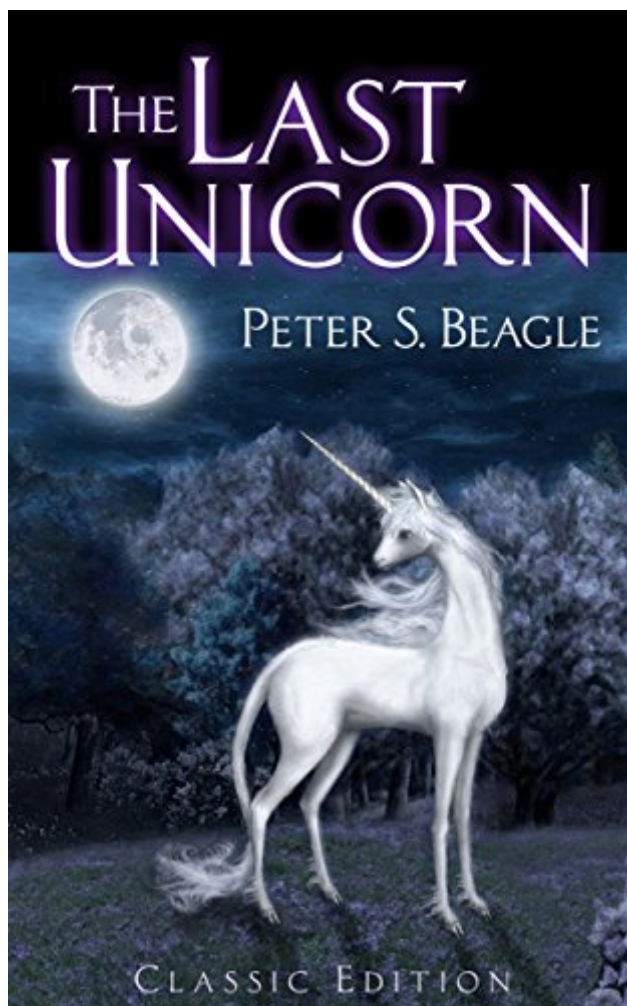


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The Last Unicorn: Classic Edition



Synopsis

“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.” —Patrick Rothfuss, author of THE NAME OF THE WIND and THE WISE MAN’S FEAR

In 1968 Peter S. Beagle published his second novel, an oddly magical creation that was a heartbreaking quest, a fairy tale, and a spoof on fairy tales all at the same time. It is now recognized as a timeless classic of fantasy on par with THE LORD OF THE RINGS, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, THE WIZARD OF OZ, and THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING. To date six-and-a-half million copies have been sold in more than 25 languages, and in 1982 it was turned into an animated film that has won the hearts of tens of millions worldwide. Now THE LAST UNICORN comes to commercial release in ebook format for the first time, as an exclusive. This edition presents THE LAST UNICORN in its definitive author-approved 2007 text.

“Almost as if it were the last fairy tale, come out of lonely hiding in the forests of childhood, THE LAST UNICORN is as full of enchantment as any of the favorite tales readers may choose to recall... a delicate, sensitive, yet powerful rendering of all the intangibles that make a fairy tale unforgettable.” —St. Louis Post-Dispatch

“The plot is a classic quest structure — an impossible goal, a motley company, heroes, villains, monsters, magic, desperate chances, bittersweet success. The last unicorn in the world sets out from her enchanted forest to discover the fate of her kin. She finds danger and challenges. She acquires companions. She battles evil, loses, suffers a form of exile [as she] becomes, briefly and agonizingly, human... What makes THE LAST UNICORN unique is the way Mr. Beagle transcends the ordinary fantasy quest trope with his incomparable storytelling skill. The book is a triumph.... the writing is as precise and beautiful as mosaic tiles, as colored glass backed by gold, sharp and glittering. Part of the wonder is the effortless way Mr. Beagle combines fairy-tale imagery with matter-of-fact modernity. He slides from heroic fantasy to laugh-out-loud funny: a sorcerer confronts an enemy with ðœdemons, metamorphoses, paralyzing ailments and secret judo holds; a prince rides home singing in harmony with the severed ogre’s head lashed to his saddle. The story has an intimacy and immediacy that captivates the reader. You don’t read this with the futile wish that such things would happen to you — you read it and believe, at once, that they could.” —The Green Man Review

Peter S. Beagle was born in 1939 and raised in the Bronx, just a few blocks from Woodlawn Cemetery, the inspiration for his first novel, A FINE AND PRIVATE PLACE. Today, thanks to classic works such as THE LAST UNICORN, TAMSIN, and THE INNKEEPER’S SONG, he is acknowledged as America’s greatest living fantasy author; and his dazzling abilities with

language, characters, and magical storytelling have earned him many millions of fans around the world. In addition to stories and novels Beagle has written numerous teleplays and screenplays, including the animated versions of THE LORD OF THE RINGS and THE LAST UNICORN, plus the fan-favorite "Sarek" episode of STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. His nonfiction book I SEE BY MY OUTFIT, which recounts a 1963 journey across America on motor scooter, is considered a classic of American travel writing; and he is also a gifted poet, lyricist, and singer-songwriter. He has won the Hugo, Nebula, Locus, and Mythopoeic Awards, along with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Fantasy Association, and also France's prestigious Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire.

Book Information

File Size: 1773 KB

Print Length: 218 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Conlan Press; 1 edition (November 1, 2015)

Publication Date: November 1, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B016SBMNO0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #8,969 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #44

in Kindle Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics #160 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Classics #333 in Kindle Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

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 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 brought 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-atch! 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!

My Thoughts: I have heard so much about this story from people in real life and also many of the My Little Pony friends of mine on forums. It was one of those books I really wanted to get to, especially before I saw the movie, although I was tempted to watch the movie before reading it a few times. I am glad I read the book first though. I had a completely different vision going in to this one. I didn't imagine the Magician and Molly and the other cast of characters. I thought it was going to be an animal journey, no humans, or at least, not that many. It was still interesting the way it progressed, and how the unicorn interacted with humans and animals. I loved the poetic writing and the lines that the unicorn said about life and reality, making everything come into focus, crystal clear. I was a little off put by the way it ended. Not that it wasn't well done, because it was (it REALLY was), but I didn't expect that. Or to be so torn by the departure of everyone, and the pain faced by each. It's a mixed emotion. The Last Unicorn was inspiring and bizarre. I can see why it is beloved by so many. The story itself was a maze of brilliance and beauty. Peter S. Beagle created an amazing world and a timeless classic. Now to watch the movie. **My Rating:** Very good

I watched the movie as a kid. My dad was always interested in fantasy and wanted to get us into it, too. I only recently found out that the movie was based on a book. I was truly impressed how accurate the movie was to the author's work. Beagle's detail in his writing put you in the story. Just a great classic for all ages.

I have always loved the movie, and this book was even richer than the movie. It was complex and thoughtful and imaginative, and it stayed with me long after I finished. It is a classic that I will be reading to my children in the years to come.

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