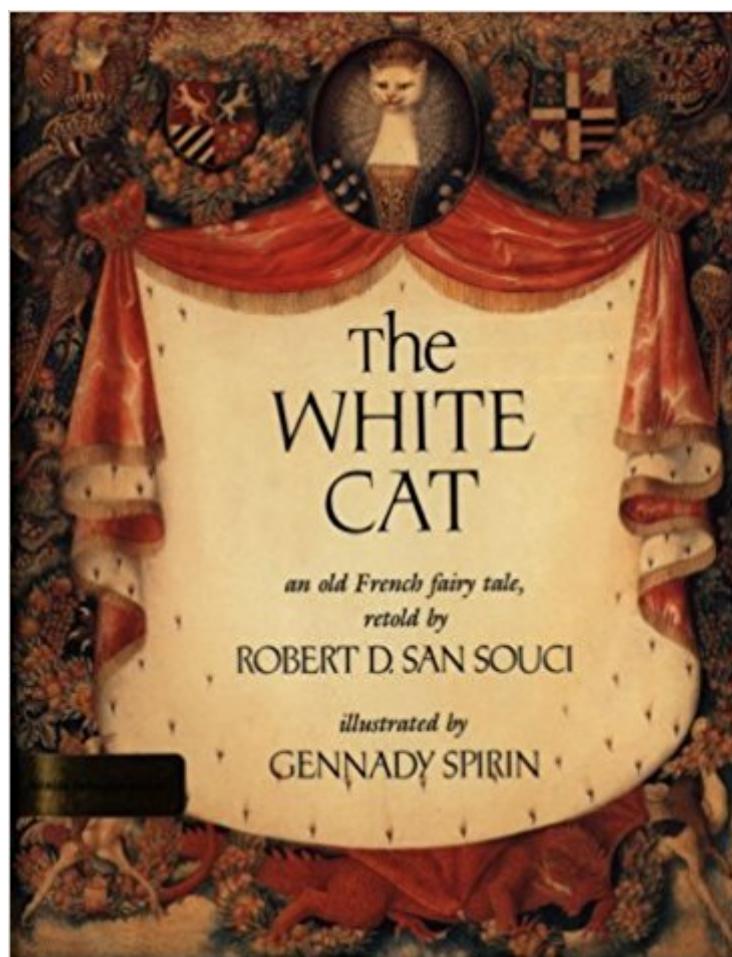


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# The White Cat: An Old French Fairy Tale



## **Synopsis**

The White Cat helps the youngest prince win his father's throne. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 4 and up

Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Orchard Books (NY) (August 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531084094

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Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 8.8 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #986,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Children's

Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European

## **Customer Reviews**

With this collaboration, San Souci and Spirin prove that gifted and loving hands can make old tales gloriously new again. Credited to Madame d'Aulnoy and first published in 1698, The White Cat contains many familiar (and well-loved) fairy-tale elements. Three brothers set out on separate quests, each hoping to please his royal father best and so win the kingdom. The youngest son is kind to a cat who turns out to have been a bewitched queen. She helps her beloved win the contest, the spell is broken and the two live happily ever after. San Souci's retelling is suitably magical and mysterious, and his words flow like music. Spirin's sumptuous paintings, each abounding with meticulous detail from foreground to furthest distance, glow with light and expression. Surely Madame d'Aulnoy would be pleased. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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A king's youngest son, sent on a quest by his father, stumbles on a mysterious castle, where he is welcomed by the White Cat. The prince is quite taken with the charming and elegant cat whose generosity and unique powers help him fulfill not one request of his father's, but two. When the prince learns that the White Cat's happiness is threatened by impending marriage to a wicked wizard, he valiantly defends her, thereby winning her hand. She is, of course, a lovely enchanted

princess. San Souci has done an excellent job of retelling Madame d'Aulnoy's long, ornate tale. While many elements of the older story have been left out, the romance remains and the mystery is heightened, making a tighter, more direct story that will appeal to young readers. The formal tone of the story is carried out in Spirin's elaborate, detailed illustrations. Their soft, golden glow evokes an appropriate sense of the past, as if the scenes were being viewed across the ages. A ferocious sea battle and a dramatic confrontation between the wizard, disguised as a dragon, and the prince are depicted in two marvelous double-spreads that afford special pleasure for the eye and imagination. The only jarring note is the face of the White Cat, which often looks cruel rather than lovely. Still, this is a fine addition to folk and fairy-tale collections that will serve as an accessible introduction to this relatively unknown story. --Linda Boyles, Alachua County Lib . District, Gainesville, FLCopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I was a child I would borrow this book from my school's library at every chance I got. I was mesmerized by the illustrations and the story. I read it over and over again until I moved away. Always remembering the fantastical fairy tale, I searched for ten years for this book. When I finally found it here on .com, I was thrilled! The book is in excellent condition. Every page is brilliant in quality and the story is as alive now as it was when it was written. It may say that the reading level is for ages 4-8, but it's enjoyable for people of every age. One of my favorite purchases to date.

Here was a fairy tale that I had never read before. Very much like other tales with youth meeting tests of determination and faith, freeing the beautiful cat princess from a magic spell and marrying her for happy ever after. But very well told and beautifully illustrated. You can't get much better than San Souci and Spirin.

Beautiful book.

I searched far and wide for this book. Delighted to have it

cute story

Great

This story is an old friend. Better for older children (8-12). The tale of friendship, heroism, chivalry, and most important, patience with family members. Perfect match between narrator and illustrator -- five stars!

This book could not be more beautifully illustrated. Spirin's art has a wispy, dreamlike delicacy combined with beautifully rendered detail. It looks truly magical. One two-page spread depicts a battle royal between armored cats and an armada of rats sailing in ostrich-egg shells -- it's almost too beautiful and fantastic to take in. The story itself is a lesser-known fairy tale, filled with heroism, romance, virtue, and wicked villains. My four-year-old fell in love with it immediately, and we have played many games of "white cat" in the last few weeks. The cat queen is lovely, brave, wise, strong -- and exquisitely dressed! What little girl wouldn't be enchanted? Boys will love the high adventure and excitement of the story, complete with wicked dwarfs and fire-breathing salamanders. In every respect, one of the finest fairy-tale picturebooks I've ever seen.

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