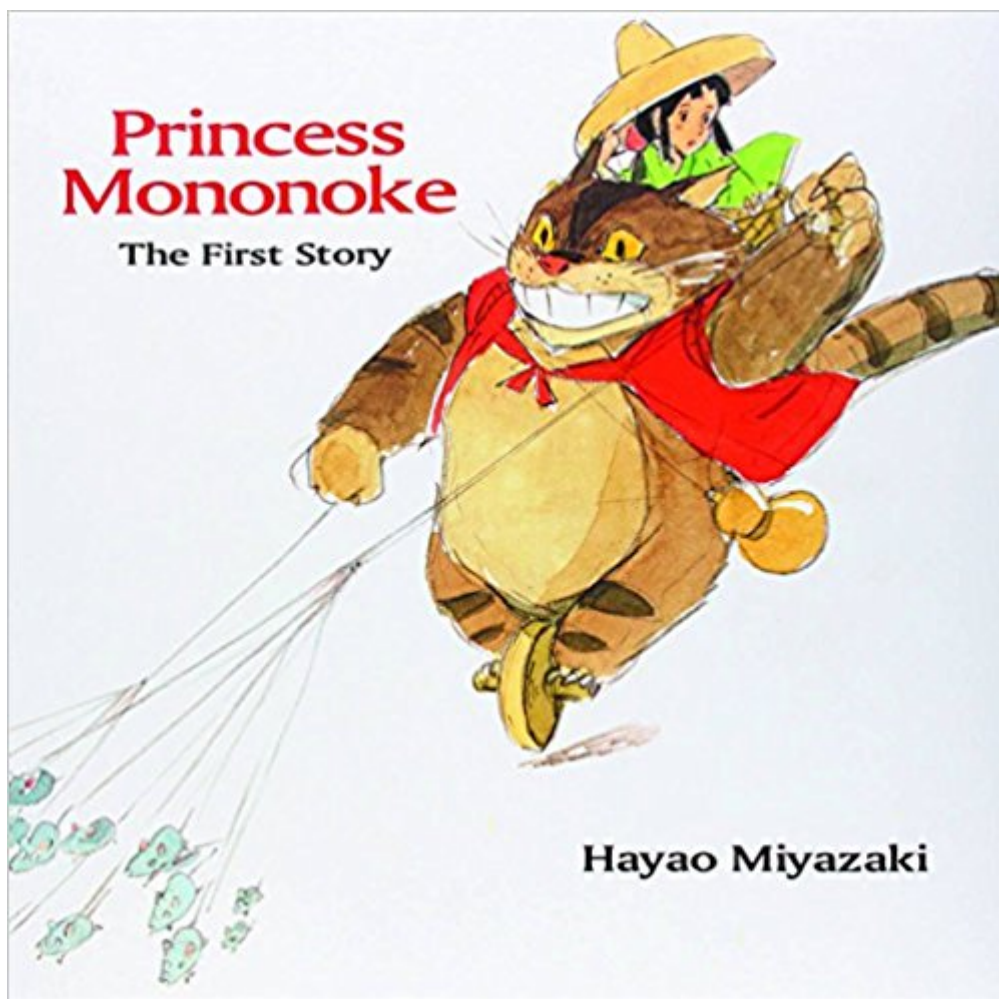


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Princess Mononoke: The First Story



Synopsis

An oversized, lavishly illustrated storybook featuring original watercolor art by legendary filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki! This is the original Princess Mononoke story, created by Hayao Miyazaki in 1980 while he was first conceptualizing the landmark animated film that would be released to universal acclaim seventeen years later. As an initial version of the tale, it offers a new and different perspective from the final version presented in the film. After a long, exhausting war, a samurai lost in a forest encounters a giant wildcat--a mononoke. The beast saves his life, but at the price of his daughter's hand in marriage...

Book Information

Series: Princess Mononoke

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Hayao Miyazaki is one of Japan's most beloved animation directors. In 2005 he was awarded the Venice International Film Festival's Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement, and his Studio Ghibli received the festival's Osella Award for overall achievement in 2004. Miyazaki's films include *Spirited Away*, winner of the 2002 Academy Award[®] for Best Animated Feature Film, as well as *Castle in the Sky*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Ponyo*, all of which have received great acclaim in the U.S. Miyazaki's other achievements include the highly regarded manga series *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* and *Starting Point: 1979-1996*, a collection of essays, interviews, and memoirs that chronicle his early career and the development of his theories of animation. Both are published in English by

VIZ Media.

"Princess Monoke: The first story" is a fantastic picture book by Hayao Miyazaki. While the book shares the same title as the Miyazaki directed Studio Ghibli film the book predates the film and the two works are otherwise totally unrelated. The plot of Princess Monoke is a rather straight forward fairy tale quest. I won't go into details other than to say that it involves a samurai who has given his daughter to a cat like beast in exchange for saving his life. The book itself is an a quite large book, similar in size to ViZ's other studio ghibli art books. The illustrations are gorgeous watercolor paintings but have a real loose, almost quick study feel to them. Seeing Miyazaki's work is a real treat and it's impressive to see how much movement and emotion he conveys with just a few lines in his art. The text is minimal and the overall look of the work is that of a larger, much thicker children's book complete with dust jacket. I enjoyed the story and the art immensely. Obviously this book would appeal most to fans of Studio Ghibli. Reading through it one can see the beginning of ideas that would crop up in later films. Overall this is an easy recommendation for any Ghibli fan or those who collect picture books. Well worth the price!

I bought this as a Christmas present for my wife since we both love Miyazaki movies. Our dog is named Noke, after Princess Mononoke, so you'd guess that we're a fan of this story. What a great buy. The book is a little expensive but it is a huge, well-made hardcover copy. It really stands out in your bookshelf and almost has that collectible feeling to it. Also, for any fans of the story, it's a great and simple read. I actually think it's a great children's book even if you haven't seen the movie. Beautifully drawn. A new feature in our bookshelf.

Some of Miyazaki's finest hand-drawn fantasy artwork is in this book. I bought it for a 6-year-old friend; he was entranced by the pictures. As noted elsewhere, the story, a simple tale of evil and redemption, bears no resemblance to the much later "Princess Mononoke" movie. For those familiar with Miyazaki's films, it's fun to spot the appearance of several archetypal characters he recreated again and again in various settings. For instance, the cat seen on the cover and in other pictures facially resembles the Cat Bus in My Neighbor Totoro. The illustrations are five-star, but I rated the book four stars for a couple of technical issues: the color reproduction on some pages is too pale, and the english text occasionally has vocabulary that will need to be interpreted by adults for children who can otherwise easily follow the story.

A great coffee table sized book Beautiful glimpse into a story idea of the great Miyazaki. It pulls you into the mind of the creator, to see how he imagines his stories before they become what we know and love. It's a standalone story, and nothing like the original Princess Mononoke. The back of the book tells how he struggled to get the story accepted, and his vision for the story. The concept art on the pages, can be seen throughout several of his films, if you pay attention to the details. Overall, I would highly recommend this to any Miyazaki fan..

This version of Princess Mononoke was written in 1980, well before the movie was released and well before Hayao Miyazaki directed his famous movies. I love this book, not necessarily for the story, but for how so much of this story ended up in his OTHER movies. Parts of this story end up in Totoro, Spirited Away, and a few others. Very little of this story ended up in the final film, but I loved it anyway.

The book itself was good and what I expected, however the condition I received it in was not. When it got to me, the book cover was smudged and dirty. There was a sticky spot on the front. I wiped it down with a damp sponge and got most of it off, but I am disappointed in the condition it was in. I was expecting a brand new item.

My daughter loves the book. She enjoys the map inside to help visualize paths of the characters.

Cute picture book, and good quality. Wasn't sure what to expect, but the pages are super durable, especially with my 10 month old trying to "read" through it.

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