

THE  
LAST UNICORN



PETER S. BEAGLE

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Adapted for the first time from the novel by Peter S. Beagle, The Last Unicorn is a tale for any age about the wonders of magic, the power of love, and the tragedy of loss. The unicorn, alone in her enchanted wood, discovers that she may be the last of her kind. Reluctant at first, she sets out on a journey to find her fellow unicorns, even if it means facing the terrifying anger of the Red Bull and malignant evil of the king who wields his power. Adapted by Peter B. Gillis and illustrated by Renae De Liz and Ray Dillon.

## The Last Unicorn Details

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Author : Peter S. Beagle , Peter B. Gillis (Adaptor) , Renae De Liz (illustrator) , Ray Dillon (illustrator)

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# From Reader Review The Last Unicorn for online ebook

## Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

As a child, I greatly adored horses and, even more, their mythological counterparts, pegasi and unicorns. It should come as no surprise then that one of my favorite movies as a child was The Last Unicorn. It is very much one of those kid's movies that you either watched as a child and will thus adore forever, but, if watched for the first time in adulthood, definitely comes off as incredibly creepy. I can totally see why others don't like it, but it will forever hold a dear place in my heart.

For the most part, this graphic novel version of the story covers the same ground as the film. The look of the characters very clearly was inspired by the film version as well. The small additions to the plot in some places, and the subtractions (like the tree that freaked people out the most in the movie), made me even more curious to read the original novel. That is definitely a thing I need to do someday.

The graphic novel is definitely pretty and oh so colorful. However, its brevity means that a few things have to be cut. Much of the trimming took place in the latter half of the tale, making it rather confusing and, did I not know the story, I likely would have been confused by much of the time spent in King Haggard's castle.

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## Chi says

*"No, no, listen, don't listen to me, listen. You can find your people if you are brave. They passed down all the roads long ago, and the Red Bull ran close behind them and covered their footprints. Let nothing you dismay, but don't be half-safe."*

What do you get when you get the last unicorn remaining in the world, one wizard with the possible makings of a wizard but was not yet a true wizard, and one woman whose youth has long passed her by? Possibly a riddle that even Ruhk himself would've pondered had he not read the book nor watched the movie.

I will say that first off, I fell in love with the movie when I was but a young girl. And to be honest, it has remained my favourite, that not even this book (the original, no less) could surpass it. Every couple of lines and moments, and all I could do was to picture it in my mind, clear as anything. So, it has coloured my view of the original story.

The story is amazing. Don't get me wrong. Peter Beagle had an amazing feel for fables, mythology, fairy tales, and I loved those moments whenever he broke through the fourth wall, and the characters realised that they were just part of the wider story. Those were fantastic.

I also thoroughly loved how human they all were. They weren't just perfect people; they had their pride, their arrogance, their need for something greater than themselves. The story too was perfect - I don't know how he conceived it all in the first place, but it was amazing.

But what ultimately lost me were sadly, bits of his poetry. I couldn't appreciate them as much as I could've or

should've. And the songs - alas, if I had but heard them instead of read them, they may have affected me more. Finally, don't get me started on the anachronisms. I only got a couple of them, but a lot of them went over my head.

As it stands, I loved the movie all the more. The book was sufficient to remind me of key moments and key scenes, and mayhap filled in gaps, but that's it.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

The Last Unicorn (The Last Unicorn #1-6) by Peter B. Gillis (Adaptor), Peter S. Beagle, Renae De Liz (illustrator), Ray Dillon (illustrator) is a wonderful graphic adaptation of the novel. Gorgeous illustrations, easy to read fonts, followed story well, touching story, thought provoking, and I just loved it! A nice change from a normal novel. I got this book from the library.

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### **Kate says**

"The Last Unicorn" was one of my favorite movies from my childhood, and a few years ago I got around to reading The Last Unicorn. When I saw that a graphic novel version had been published, I of course had to read it.

The story does not differ from the book or movie, but the illustrations alone are worth it. The style is similar to that of the movie, but care was taken to make each image beautifully rendered, and the way several scenes could be placed on a page while not chopping it up into little comic book blocks was artful. The entire book was so ethereal. Fans of the book/movie will enjoy rereading the story with the gorgeous art, and newcomers will have a wonderful introduction to a wonderful story.

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### **Kalin says**

Breathtaking.

No words to waste. Just gaze and gaze and gaze ... until the magic wells up inside you too, and springs forth ....

P.S. Oh ... and more beautiful than the movie. I loved the movie (to the point of deciding to translate the book into Bulgarian, and later having a host of wonders happen to my life), but this soars to another level.

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### **AndrewP says**

This book is on several Top 100 SF-Fantasy lists, which is quite surprising as it seem impossible to find. It's been on my 'want' list for many years and until this graphic novel version showed up I had been unable to find it in any of my local libraries or books shops.

After reading this I find myself putting it into the same boat as 'A Wrinkle in Time'. I would probably have been great if I had read this as a young adult, but now, not so much. It's a decent enough story and you can read some hidden meanings and themes into it. Art in this graphic novel version was adequate, but I think they ruined it by printing a long interview with the author in 5 point font. Surely a couple of extra pages would have been better than squeezing it in as an afterthought with the smallest type possible.

Not really for me. If I come across a copy of the original book I might give that a try.

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### **Algernon says**

Did I really need to check the graphic novel after reading the book and watching the movie?

YES! I'm really glad I did, because this adaptation has gorgeous graphics and follows the storyline very well. The author was directly involved in the transcription, and one of the bonuses of the graphic novel is an extensive interview with Peter S Beagle about his start in the literary world and the genesis of the story, the difficult re-writes and the unexpected jump in popularity, the enduring succes of succesive reprints and the numerous adaptations.

I will not repeat the plot or analyze the characters, most readers are probably familiar with the story - it works well for both youngsters and old-timers like me. If you are not, I would suggest getting acquainted with it soon.

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### **Sadie Hartmann Mother Horror says**

Such an amazing addition to all my treasured memories of the movie. The animated film, The Last Unicorn was the first movie I saw in the theater. I remember falling head over heels in love with the unicorn and then bawling my eyes out over the intense face off with the ominous Red Bull. This graphic novel captured everything I love about the story. I loved it. Too bad I checked it out from the library because I need to own it and will most likely buy it soon so I can leaf through it at random. Stunning artistry and full of nostalgia.

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### **Sissy Lu {Book Savvy Reviews} says**

#### **Classic tale!**

This is probably one of my favorite childhood stories that isn't quite a happily ever after in the typical Disney way. I would have to say it's a close tie between The Princess Bride and The Last Unicorn as to what my favorite childhood film was. The Last Unicorn is has a bittersweet ending that is for sure and it's composed of various characters. Quirky ones, comedic relief, pure evil, neutral, supporting roles and heroes. What more do you need? Oh, I know... UNICORNS.

Amalthea is such a strong character to me, she's gentle, pure and kind, but when her kind is in danger she takes matters into her own hooves and sets off to find them if they are even still alive. Along the way, she gets into hairy situations and meets friends as well as enemies.

Schmendrick is amongst the quirky individuals and he is one of the supporting roles, he's a clumsy wizard who has magic that scarcely works or at least in the way he wants it to. When the wicked Mama Fortuna captures the unicorn and places her in a cage, it is Schmendrick who saves the day!

I really really could talk about all of the characters involved in this story, there is so much growth, development, and feelings that are part of this beautiful classic tale.

I love love love this story, it just never gets old and now as an adult I can really appreciate it.

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### **Danielle N says**

So there is a bit of history with The Last Unicorn and myself. Aside from the fact that the unicorn is most certainly my spirit animal, I go way back with this story. My deep fondness and connection with Beagle's timeless story was originally established as a result of the animated film that was first released in 1982 and directed by Arthur Rankin, Jr. and Jules Bass (who happen to be associated with many of my animated favorites). The now somewhat outdated but no less nostalgic music score by America and timeless animated continue to solicit feelings of excitement and love with each viewing. Yes, I own this and will actually be revisiting this evening since completing this graphic novel.

Finish this review and check out a trailer from 1982 [here!](#)

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### **Trish says**

I'm in love!

Ever since I was a child I was a fan of the story of the last unicorn and regularly watched the movie. A few years later, I read the book (though in the German translation). I've decided to do a re-read (of the English original this time) with my group this month and when looking for a nice paperback edition, I found this graphic novel.

The story is that of the book / movie (it's a mix of both versions - yes they vary slightly): a unicorn lives in a lilac forest and finds out that there are no others like it anymore. It goes looking for them, thus encountering a number of people while wandering the country (usually they are of the bad type, full of greed, malice and intrigue). However, finally, it also meets a failed but kind wizard, a compassionate woman, an evil king and his idealistic son, as well as a true demon- and discovers what happened to the other unicorns. Although I'm sure most people know this classic fantasy story, I will not say any more, just in case.

Instead, let me tell you how utterly gorgeous this graphic novel version is! Just to showcase:

The colours are alive on the pages, every setting has its unique colour palette, the art itself is as fantastic as the story and very recognizable/distinct.

As much as I love the story itself, I'm glad I found this version that is actually even prettier than the art of the

movie.

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### **Patrick says**

If you've been following me on social media for any amount of time, you probably know that the Last Unicorn is my favorite book.

You also probably know that I'm a bit of a curmudgeon.

So I went into reading this graphic novel with an unfair amount of skepticism. I wasn't just expecting to be irritated by a less-than-true adaptation of my favorite book. I was planning on it. I was pre-irritated.

Much to my surprise, I liked it. The art and the paneling were both complex and lovely. It's very true to the story. The depiction of the characters was just about perfect. The pacing and the story were intact.

Was it perfect? No. But I think it's about as close as you could ever hope to get.

In fact, I'd go so far as to say it's the best book-to-comic adaptation I've ever read. I'd be delighted if an adaptation of my book turned out this well.

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### **Connie says**

I had to buy this graphic novel version of The Last Unicorn for my daughter for her birthday. She is a big fan of the illustrators. This story adaptation meticulously follows the original plot and even retains some of its poetic feel. It is, however, truncated to the point that I felt it missed a lot of the subtle philosophical nuances that I love about the original. The artwork is, of course, exceptional!

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### **madamescozycorner says**

The illustrations are beautiful works of art and the story mostly keeps close to the movie. Now, I haven't read the book yet, so I can't judge how close it is to the original Story, but for a graphicnovel I think they did a good Job! Of course some of the scenes were cut short, but if again, you see it more as a little treasure for fans of The Last Unicorn to have, it certainly will do the job to make you marvel over the illustrations! What I felt a little disappointed in, was that especially in the beginning Schmendrick for example seemed kinda beautified. For him it evens out a little later, but it felt like the artist first had to practise his looks. Some like the Harpye or Mommy Fortuna were on point, but some other characters like the old man in the beginning who wanted to capture the unicorn were pictured as quite friendly looking in the graphicnovel, while in the movie they had outstanding Features that made them seem mean. I think all those feautres for Schmendrick and the rest, were kind of missing. I liked them in the movie, it made them look interesting and original!

But still altogether a nice little Addition to my graphicnovel shelf! ♥?

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## **Kitkat says**

I loved the art in this book and it made me smile. I liked the characters and I liked the plot. I'm happy I read it.

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