



Swan Lake

Margot Fonteyn , Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky , Trina Schart Hyman (Illustrator)

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Once again, ballerina Margot Fonteyn enchants audiences, this time to tell the tale of the doomed lovers as only she can. Full color.

Swan Lake Details

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Author : Margot Fonteyn , Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky , Trina Schart Hyman (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Swan Lake for online ebook

Karla says

The story of Swan Lake beautifully illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman and retold by famous ballerina Margot Fontaine. Love it! So sad it is out of print.

Set says

This beautiful tragic ballet story is very nicely depicted through the art of Trina Schart Hyman ; I'm very glad that the author remained true to the story of Swan Lake.

Ilana says

One of those really disappointing fairy tale endings. Oh, the power of insta-love and double suicide saves the day. Got it. Right. BUT I can't help loving this book, because it's so fucking beautiful. I still want it, despite the silly story.

Kathleen says

I don't think I every really heard the story of Swan Lake before.

Kersten says

This is a beautifully illustrated story. I loved the story of Swan Lake and it was one of my favorite Ballets. Sadly my copy of this book was chewed up by my sister's dog Tasha (when she was a puppy). The cover is ruined and I was devastated but I still own the book because I love it so much, maybe someday I will get a copy that hasn't been chewed on.

Elyza says

Beautiful book and lovely sad story.

Alyssa says

Beautiful as all of Hyman's books are.

Sarah says

Beautiful and a little haunting. These images have stayed with me long after I read the book as a child.

Kat says

As an adult the best part of the book was reading the author's note about dancing Swan Lake. Her description of the physical and mental toll the role takes on a dancer was fascinating. Her comment that it was the only show she didn't believe she could dance twice in one day was very telling. The book itself had beautiful illustrations and the story, while tragic, is beautiful.

Marsha says

Ms. Fonteyn was one of the world's most famous and gifted prima ballerinas. Such talents don't necessarily translate to writing a children's book.

While she keeps the story of the ballet simple, there are awkward moments as if she couldn't find a way to keep a line interesting and informative. Surely there are more exciting ways of conveying the terror of ballroom guests who find an evil magician in their midst than writing: "In panic the guests ran this way and that." She is often scant on description, too, without bothering to fill in details about a dark forest at moonlight or the inside of a castle teeming with excited partygoers.

But what the book lacks in narrative is more than compensated for by Ms. Hyman's sumptuous illustrations. Grounding her characters in the realism that commonly informs her work, her swan maidens aren't impossibly dainty ladies in toe shoes but disheveled, frightened girls running about barefoot in the forest. Siegfried himself is first seen enjoying herself amidst the revelry of villagers, flirtatious minstrels, dancing maidens and people consuming food and wine. Then Ms. Hyman shows the Princess and her ladies-in-waiting leaving in a huff after the prince angers his mother; there is no missing the somberness of Siegfried and his guests after his mother crashes the party.

Little illustrations at the bottoms and tops of various pages provide their own details to the ongoing story as well as different sights of the mysterious lake. If you're a fan of Ms. Hyman's body of work, this slim picture book is a keeper.

A.K. Klemm says

Kiddo says, "I love this book, it was nice. I'd like every kid in the world to have a copy." We are thrilled to discover how many stories Trina Schart Hyman has illustrated and are also looking forward to the DVD of the ballet starring the picture book's author. Definitely a homeschool mom staple.

Juliette says

Grades 3rd-5th

Wonderful picture book for older grade schoolers (will have to wait a few years to reintroduce this to my son). The illustrations are beautiful and fit the story well.

It's the story of a Prince who falls in love with the Swan Queen (Odette). Odette and her maidens are cursed to be swans by day and only get to be humans between Midnight and Dawn. The only way the curse can be broken is by a vow of true love. On the night the prince wants to name Odette as his betrothed a mysterious count (the owl magician who is responsible for Odette's curse) shows up with his beautiful daughter Odile whom the prince mistakes for Odette.

Not only is this a wonderful way to introduce the ballet Swan Lake, but Margot Fonteyn's notes at the end also help open a discussion between the duality of Odette and Odile, the good and the evil.

Ashley says

Illustrator: Trina Schart Hyman

Ages: 5-8

Plot: Prince Siegfried must choose a woman to marry, but he cannot find a woman to love. Until one night, standing beside a lake he witness a wonderful transformation of a swan into a beautiful princess. Prince Siegfried vows to break the woman's enchantment and marry her.

Assessment: The narration by Margot Fonteyn helps to translate the ballet from the stage to paper. She effectively relates the wonder of Prince Siegfried towards Odette, and the Swan Princess' despair over her plight.

The smooth flowing lines of the Princess' and the maidens' dresses add a lightness and grace that almost gives the reader the impression they could blow off the page if the wind were too strong. The darkness of the night backgrounds help to make Odette shimmer with a feeling of magic and beauty.

Note: I remember reading this when I was young and even though I didn't really understand the story I was fascinated by the illustrations!!

Bree says

Notes::

Illustrations are too scary for my little ones

Story is just awful.

Sarah says

Even though the pictures are very beautiful, this book never engaged me as a child. It was too dark both in story and in illustration. Nice retelling of the Swan Lake story though.
