

the princess bride first edition

The Princess Bride First Edition: A Treasure for Collectors and Fans Alike

the princess bride first edition holds a special place in the hearts of book lovers, collectors, and fans of the beloved fantasy novel and film. Written by William Goldman and originally published in 1973, this edition is much more than just a book; it is a piece of literary and cinematic history. For anyone interested in rare books or the enchanting world of The Princess Bride, understanding the significance, identifying features, and value of the first edition can be both fascinating and rewarding.

Understanding the Appeal of The Princess Bride First Edition

The Princess Bride has captivated audiences for decades with its blend of adventure, romance, and wit. The first edition of the novel is especially prized because it represents the original form of the story before it became a cult classic film in 1987. Collectors cherish this edition not only for its nostalgic value but also because it offers insight into William Goldman's unique narrative style and storytelling prowess.

Why Collectors Seek the First Edition

Collectors often look for first editions because they are the original printings of a work, which typically have a limited print run and can increase in value over time. For The Princess Bride, the first edition is particularly rare due to several factors:

- **Limited initial print run:** The book was not a blockbuster bestseller upon its first release, resulting in fewer copies printed.
- **Cultural impact:** The novel's transformation into a beloved film greatly increased interest in the original book.
- **Condition rarity:** Many copies have been handled extensively, making pristine copies hard to find.

Because of these reasons, owning a first edition can feel like holding a tangible piece of storytelling magic.

Identifying the True First Edition of The Princess Bride

For those new to book collecting or fans hoping to verify the authenticity of their copy, knowing how

to spot a genuine first edition of *The Princess Bride* is crucial. There are several key markers to look out for.

Publication Details and Printing Information

The original first edition was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in 1973. When examining a copy, the copyright page should indicate "First Edition" or a number line starting with "1." This is the most straightforward way to confirm a true first printing.

Dust Jacket Characteristics

The dust jacket of the first edition is also an important identifier. It features a distinctive design with a photograph of a young woman (the character Buttercup) on the cover, which differs from later reprints and editions. The color palette and typography are unique to this initial release.

Physical Attributes of the Book

The hardcover binding, paper quality, and even the font type can help experts distinguish a first edition from subsequent printings. The original hardcover tends to have a green cloth cover with gold lettering, which has become iconic among collectors.

The Historical and Cultural Significance of The Princess Bride First Edition

Beyond its physical characteristics, the first edition embodies a particular moment in literary and pop culture history. William Goldman's novel was groundbreaking in how it blended fairy tale elements with modern humor and metafictional commentary. The book itself is presented as an abridgment of a fictional work by "S. Morgenstern," adding layers of narrative complexity.

The Novel's Influence on Fantasy and Romance Genres

The Princess Bride bridged the gap between traditional fantasy storytelling and contemporary sensibilities. Its clever dialogue and memorable characters, like Westley and Inigo Montoya, have influenced countless writers and filmmakers. The first edition captures this pioneering spirit in its purest form.

Connection to the Film Adaptation

While the 1987 film adaptation brought the story to an even wider audience, the first edition remains

the source material that sparked the film's creation. Collectors and fans often treasure the first edition as the original blueprint for the beloved movie, appreciating the differences and nuances between the two mediums.

Tips for Collecting and Preserving The Princess Bride First Edition

If you're considering adding a first edition of The Princess Bride to your collection, or if you already own one, there are several practical tips to keep in mind to maintain its condition and value.

How to Verify Authenticity

- Always check the copyright page for first edition indicators.
- Compare the dust jacket to verified images from reputable sources.
- Consult with rare book dealers or professional appraisers if in doubt.

Preservation Best Practices

- Store the book in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent fading.
- Keep the dust jacket protected with a clear, acid-free cover.
- Handle the book with clean hands to avoid oils and dirt damaging the pages.
- Avoid excessive handling to maintain the integrity of the spine and binding.

Where to Find a First Edition

Finding a first edition can be challenging but rewarding. Consider these channels:

- **Rare book dealers:** Specialized dealers often have access to collectible editions.
- **Online marketplaces:** Websites like AbeBooks, eBay, and specialized auction houses may list first editions.
- **Book fairs and conventions:** Literary events sometimes feature rare book vendors.

When purchasing, always ask for detailed photos and proof of authenticity to avoid counterfeit or later printing copies.

Exploring the Legacy of The Princess Bride Through Its First Edition

Owning or even just learning about the first edition of *The Princess Bride* allows readers to connect deeply with a story that has touched multiple generations. The novel's blend of humor, romance, and adventure is timeless, and the first edition preserves the original voice and vision of William Goldman.

Whether you're a die-hard fan, a collector of rare books, or someone intrigued by the intersection of literature and film, the first edition offers a tangible link to a cultural phenomenon. It invites readers to experience the magic in the same way audiences did nearly five decades ago, before the story became a cinematic classic.

For anyone passionate about storytelling, fantasy, or the art of book collecting, *The Princess Bride* first edition is more than just a book—it's a cherished artifact that continues to inspire and delight.

Frequently Asked Questions

What defines a first edition of 'The Princess Bride' by William Goldman?

A first edition of *'The Princess Bride'* is typically the original 1973 publication by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, identifiable by specific printing details such as the publication date, first edition statement, and the original dust jacket design.

How can I verify the authenticity of a 'The Princess Bride' first edition?

To verify authenticity, check the copyright page for the 1973 date and first edition statement, confirm the publisher as Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, examine the dust jacket for original artwork, and consult bibliographic references or a professional appraiser.

What is the approximate value of a first edition copy of 'The Princess Bride'?

The value varies based on condition and completeness, but a well-preserved first edition of *'The Princess Bride'* can range from \$200 to \$600 or more, especially if it includes the original dust jacket and is signed by the author.

Are there any notable differences between the first edition and later editions of 'The Princess Bride'?

Yes, later editions may have different cover art, updated introductions, or changes in formatting. The first edition includes the original text and cover design from 1973, which collectors often prefer for authenticity and originality.

Is a signed first edition of 'The Princess Bride' more valuable?

Absolutely, a first edition signed by William Goldman significantly increases the book's value and desirability among collectors, often fetching premium prices compared to unsigned copies.

Where is the best place to purchase a first edition of 'The Princess Bride'?

Reputable rare book dealers, auction houses specializing in collectible books, and trusted online marketplaces like AbeBooks or eBay with verified sellers are good places to find a first edition of 'The Princess Bride'. Always ensure authenticity before purchasing.

Additional Resources

The Princess Bride First Edition: A Collector's Insight into a Literary Classic

the princess bride first edition holds a unique place in the hearts of literary enthusiasts, collectors, and fans of fantasy romance alike. Published initially in 1973 by William Goldman, this novel has transcended its original print run to become a cherished cultural artifact, especially following the success of its 1987 film adaptation. The first edition of The Princess Bride is not merely a book; it is a tangible piece of literary history that encapsulates a blend of adventure, wit, and timeless storytelling. This article explores the nuances of the first edition, its significance in the collectors' market, and what makes it a sought-after item decades after its release.

The Historical Context of The Princess Bride First Edition

The Princess Bride was first published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in 1973. William Goldman's novel is renowned for its metafictional narrative style, combining a fairy tale with a modern sensibility. The first edition is distinguishable by its specific dust jacket design, typography, and printing details that are crucial for collectors and bibliophiles.

Understanding the historical context is essential for appreciating the first edition's value. At the time of its release, the book was positioned as a "classic tale of true love and high adventure," but it did not immediately garner widespread acclaim. Over the years, however, the novel's reputation grew, propelled by Goldman's clever narrative voice and the subsequent cult status of the film adaptation directed by Rob Reiner.

Identifying Features of The Princess Bride First Edition

Collectors interested in the first edition typically look for several key features:

- **Publisher:** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

- **Year of Publication:** 1973
- **Dust Jacket:** Original dust jacket with the price intact, often considered rare due to its fragility
- **Printing Details:** The first edition does not have later printings' markings such as "First Printing" on the copyright page, but the copyright date must read 1973.
- **Binding:** Typically a hardcover with cloth binding

These markers help differentiate a genuine first edition from subsequent printings or reprints, which might lack the same collectible appeal.

The Market Value and Collectability

Over the years, the value of The Princess Bride first edition has fluctuated due to several factors. Notably, the book's cultural resurgence following the 1987 film increased demand among collectors. The market for first editions of cult classics often sees spikes when anniversaries or adaptations renew public interest.

Currently, a well-preserved first edition with an intact dust jacket can command prices ranging from several hundred to over a thousand dollars, depending on condition. Booksellers and auction houses emphasize the importance of condition; even minor damage to the dust jacket can significantly diminish value.

Comparative Analysis with Other Editions

The Princess Bride has been reprinted numerous times since 1973, including special anniversary editions, movie tie-ins, and paperback versions. Compared to these later editions, the first edition stands out in terms of rarity and collector interest.

For instance:

- **Paperback Editions:** Often more affordable and widely available but lack the prestige and value of the hardcover first edition.
- **Anniversary Editions:** While they may include additional content such as Goldman's commentary, they generally do not have the same market value as the original print.
- **Movie Tie-in Editions:** Released post-1987 film, these editions capitalize on the movie's popularity but are considered less collectible in the bibliophilic community.

Collectors prioritize the first edition not only for its age but because it represents the original literary artifact before the novel gained mass popularity.

Why The Princess Bride First Edition Remains Relevant Today

The enduring appeal of The Princess Bride first edition can be attributed to several factors that go beyond mere scarcity.

Literary and Cultural Significance

William Goldman's writing style in The Princess Bride is notable for its blend of parody, romance, and adventure. The novel's metafictional approach—where Goldman presents himself as the “editor” of a fictional work—adds layers of narrative complexity that invite readers to engage with the text on multiple levels. This inventive storytelling distinguishes the book in a crowded market of fantasy and romance novels.

Moreover, the story's themes of true love, heroism, and wit have universal resonance. The first edition, as the original vessel for these themes, holds a particular charm for readers familiar with the story's evolution over time.

Connection to Film Adaptation

The 1987 film adaptation of The Princess Bride elevated the novel's status, turning it into a cult classic with a devoted fanbase. This cinematic success has driven up interest in the original book, especially the first edition, which serves as a precursor to the beloved movie.

Collectors and fans often seek the first edition as a way to own a piece of the narrative's origin, linking literary history with pop culture. This cross-media appeal enhances the book's relevance, making it not only a literary collectible but also a cultural icon.

Preservation and Care for Collectors

Given the age of The Princess Bride first edition, preservation is a critical concern. Many first editions suffer from wear and tear, faded dust jackets, or spine damage. Proper care can maintain or even enhance the book's value over time.

- **Storage:** Store the book in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and deterioration.
- **Handling:** Handle with clean hands and avoid excessive opening to prevent spine cracking.
- **Protective Covers:** Use archival-quality dust jacket covers to shield the original wrapper.
- **Professional Appraisal:** For high-value copies, consider professional evaluation and

conservation services.

Collectors often document provenance and condition meticulously, as these factors influence resale and insurance value.

Challenges in Authenticating the First Edition

Authenticating *The Princess Bride* first edition can be challenging due to subtle differences between printings. Some sellers may mislabel later printings as first editions, which can mislead buyers.

Key authentication steps include:

1. Examining the copyright page for the 1973 date without additional printing notations.
2. Verifying the dust jacket's design and price markings.
3. Consulting bibliographic references or expert collectors' guides.
4. Checking for known printing errors or marks exclusive to the first edition.

Buyers are advised to purchase from reputable dealers or auction houses that provide guarantees of authenticity.

The Princess Bride first edition remains a fascinating and valuable artifact within the realms of literature and pop culture. Its significance is amplified not only by its narrative brilliance but also by its collectability and connection to one of the most beloved movies of the late 20th century. Collectors and enthusiasts continue to seek out this edition as a symbol of timeless storytelling and literary heritage.

[The Princess Bride First Edition](#)

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and Fezzik? Next, he leads us through all the phases of illusion and disillusion we encounter in our romantic pursuits, providing a healthy dose of lightheartedness along the way by sharing his own Princess Buttercup List and the vicissitudes of his dating life as he ponders how we idealize and objectify romantic love. Finally, Nightrun draws upon the demands of his own family history and the film's character the Grandson to explore the dynamics of "the last frontier of awakening," a reference to his teacher Chogyam Trungpa's claim that it's possible to be enlightened everywhere except around your family. With The Dharma of "The Princess Bride" in hand, we can set out on the path to contemporary Buddhist enlightenment with the most important relationships in our lives.

the princess bride first edition: The Totally Geeky Guide to The Princess Bride MaryAnn Johanson, 2006 Do you know the Three Terrors of the Fire Swamp? Have you fallen victim to one of the Classic Blunders? If you'd love to surrender to the Dread Pirate Westley, then you need this geeky deconstruction of the cult-favorite movie 'The Princess Bride,' by popular and respected film critic and geek-watcher MaryAnn Johanson. In her breezy analysis, Johanson explores why this delightful film -- full of fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, and miracles -- has endeared itself to millions of moviegoers. From its unusual structure to its archetypal characters, its wonderful quotability to its outrageous humor, Johanson delves into the surprising depth and profound wisdom to be found in this wildly entertaining adventure/fantasy/romance/comedy. MaryAnn Johanson has been called one of online's finest film critics by Variety. Her pop culture thinkery appears at FlickFilosopher.com, which Time magazine has praised for its snarky, well-informed commentary.

the princess bride first edition: Desert Rogues: The Princess Bride Susan Mallery, 2017-12-18 A fan favorite from #1 New York Times bestselling author Susan Mallery, previously published as The Sheikh and the Princess Bride in 2004. Prince Jefri of Bahania has just been bested...by a woman! And not just any woman, but Billie Van Horn, his gorgeous, take-no-prisoners flight instructor who is more than a match for him in every way. But when it comes to romance, Billie is determined to keep both feet on the ground. So why does the sexy prince make her feel as if she were soaring high above the clouds? She knows that when royal honor calls, her high-born lover will fly from her side forever...unless Jefri defies his destiny and chooses love...

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the princess bride first edition: Brunch at Bittersweet Café Carla Laureano, 2019 From the RITA Award-winning author of Five Days in Skye comes a sweet, romantic treat that will leave you hungry for more. Baker and pastry chef Melody Johansson has always believed in finding the positive in every situation, but seven years after she moved to Denver, she can't deny that she's stuck in a rut. One relationship after another has ended in disaster, and her classical French training is being wasted on her night job in a mediocre chain bakery. Then the charming and handsome private pilot Justin Keller lands on the doorstep of her workplace in a snowstorm, and Melody feels like it's a sign that her luck is finally turning around. Justin is intrigued by the lively bohemian baker, but the last thing he's looking for is a relationship. His own romantic failures have proven that the demands of his job are incompatible with meaningful connections, and he's already pledged his life savings to a new business venture across the country--an island air charter in Florida with his sister and brother-in-law. Against their better judgment, Melody and Justin find themselves drawn together by their unconventional career choices and shared love of adventure. But when an unexpected windfall provides Melody with the chance to open her dream bakery-café in Denver with her best friend, chef Rachel Bishop, she's faced with an impossible choice: stay and put down roots with the people and place she's come to call home . . . or give it all up for the man she loves.

the princess bride first edition: Mile High with My Dad's Best Friend: An Age Gap Romance Isla Chiu, 2021-10-27 I yelp when I see Colin Mann. My heartbeat quickens, which tends to happen when I'm surprised — and when I'm in Colin's presence. With his messy salt and pepper hair, smoldering violet eyes, and defined jawline, I find him beyond sexy, which is a tiny bit awkward as he's one of my father's closest friends. "Mr. Mann, what are you doing here?" I ask, hoping my face

isn't as red as a tomato. He caught me singing Hannah Montana, and he caught me singing it very badly. "I own this plane," he says. My eyes jump out of their sockets. WORD COUNT: 2,500 A naughty short story about a young woman and her dad's best friend! Additional keywords: Asian heroine, interracial romance, older man younger woman

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the princess bride first edition: **CAPTURE** Penny Reid, 2015-05-10 He broke her heart, and now he's back . . . From the New York Times Bestselling Author Penny Reid One week. Manhattan apartment. Super-hot ex-boyfriend. ...What's the worst that could happen? It's been nine months since Kaitlyn Parker has seen or heard from Martin Sandeke—nine months and five stages of matter. She's lived through the worst of first-love heartbreak, and is most certainly stronger (and less likely to hide in science cabinets) than ever before. But now Martin is back. And he wants to be friends. But he's sending mixed signals to the Bunsen burner in Kaitlyn's pants. Will Martin re-capture Kaitlyn's heart? Can Kaitlyn and Martin ever be just friends? Or, despite an abundance of chemistry, are some bonds just too unstable to endure? *Elements of Chemistry: CAPTURE* is the final part in a three part series; it is 65k words. Part 1 (*ATTRACTION*) Available Now! (ends on a cliffhanger) Part 2 (*HEAT*) Available Now! (ends on a cliffhanger) Part 3 (*CAPTURE*) Available Now! New adult, college, YA Romance in College, College Crush Romance, College Romance with Sex, College Romance, Young Adult Romance Novels, Coming of Age Romance, friendship, romantic comedy series, comedy, comedy series, funny romance, laugh romance, modern romance, urban romance, USA today, New York Times bestseller, USA today bestseller, smart romance, something funny to read, lighthearted romance, light romance, hot romance, Penny Reid, Penny Reid Romance, romantic comedies, rom com, hilarious, romance series, romance books, beach reads, funny, female, stories, sensual, sensual romance, hot guy, racy, sexy, heartwarming, heart-warming, love, love books, kissing books, emotional journey, contemporary, contemporary romance, sassy, captivating romance, hot, hot romance, sparks, loyalty, swoon, emotional journey, female protagonist, story, stories, love story, romance love, quirky romance, smart heroine, nerdy, nerd, nerd romance, nerdy heroine, geek romance, geeks, geeky romance, geeky heroine, alpha male, alpha hero, sports romance, college athlete romance, enemies to lovers, enemies to lovers romance, nerdy girl For fans of: Emma Chase, Julia Kent, Mariana Zapata, Sally Thorne, Susan Elizabeth Phillips, Kristen Callihan, Helen Hoang, Alice Clayton

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