

# Puss in Boots

European Folk Tale,

This adaptation retold by Kiwi Opa

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Once upon a time there lived a Miller who had three sons.

When the man died he left the mill to his oldest son; the middle son received his donkey while the youngest son was given his only other possession, a cat.

The young man felt sad.





Seeing the young man sad, the cat went over and rubbed his head against the young man's leg and spoke.

The young man was astonished. "Yes, I can talk," said the cat, "and if you will but buy me a handsome pair of boots and a large leather bag I will make you a rich and happy man."



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Although the young man  
was poor.

And the few coins he had  
in his pocket was all he  
possessed.

He was so astonished that  
his cat could talk,

He went out and bought  
the boots and bag.



Dressed in his brand new  
boots,

the cat put bait in the  
bottom of his leather bag,

threw it over his shoulder  
and set out over the fields.





Using his cunning the cat caught a plump rabbit.

Now, you would have thought the cat would have gone back to the young man and given him the rabbit to eat as he was hungry...

but no, the cat had bigger plans.



With the boldness of a  
lion,

the clever cat took his  
plump rabbit  
straight to the King,

and presented it  
as a gift from his master  
the Marquis de Carrabas.





As he bowed low to the  
King,

he noticed the King's  
daughter sitting beside  
him.

She was beautiful and  
when she smiled the  
whole room brightened.

He bowed to the Princess  
who smiled back.



Every day the cat came to the King's palace presenting gifts from his master, the Marquis de Carrabas.

Every day he bowed and the Princess smiled back.





The cat soon became a favourite at the King's palace.

One day he overheard the King planning a carriage ride along the river bank with his daughter.

He raced home and told his master, "Do what I say and fortune will smile kindly on us. Opportunity is knocking on our door."



The cat took the young man down to the river,

“Take off your clothes and get in the water.”

As soon as the young man was in the water, the cat took his torn and tattered clothes and hid them under a big stone.

Then waited for the King.





As the King's carriage  
approached the cat  
raced out waving his  
hands in the air and  
shouting to the  
coachmen,

"Help! Help!  
My master the  
Marquis de Carrabas  
is drowning."





When the King heard the name,

the Marquis de Carrabas,

he ordered the coach to stop

and the coachman to rescue the young man from the river.





The coachmen pulled the astonished young man out of the river.

The young man tried to cover his nakedness.

"Where are his clothes?" asked the King.

"Sire, he was set upon and robbed by wicked men who took all his possessions."





“Then we must fetch  
suitable replacements  
from the palace.”

Dressed in the finest of  
clothes tailored by the  
King’s personal tailor,

the young man was  
presented to the King  
and his daughter.





He was taken by the daughter's beauty.

She, noting his fine clothes and handsome looks, fell immediately in love with him.

The young man was invited to join the King and his daughter in the royal carriage.



As the carriage  
continued on its way,

Puss in Boots raced  
ahead.

He came across some  
peasants working in a  
field.





Drawing his sword Puss in Boots  
challenged them,

“When the King asks to whom  
these fields belong, declare,

‘The Marquis de Carrabas’,

or it will be the worse for you.”

The frightened workers agreed.



The cat then came upon a village.

He told the villagers,

“When the King asks  
whose lands are these,  
declare,

‘the Marquis de  
Carrabas’,

or it will be the worst for  
you.”





“These fields, sire,  
and all the surrounding lands  
belong to the Marquis de Carrabas.



"I am impressed, my Lord," said the King

The King's daughter smiled and touched the young man's arm.

The young man was even more astonished by the cleverness and audacity of his cat.





Puss in Boots came at last to a castle and knocked boldly on the door.

The enormous wooden door creaked open

and a large ogre presented himself,

“What d’ye want?”

# Puss in Boots

The cat bowed low,

“I have heard you  
are fierce and cruel

and that people  
are afraid of you.”

“What of it!” grunted the ogre.

“I have also heard you have powers to change  
yourself ...”







Suddenly, a ferocious lion appeared where the ogre had stood.

Puss quickly scrambled and scratched his way up a nearby curtain, well out of reach of the lion's sharp teeth.





From his safe perch high  
upon the curtain the  
cat's confidence  
returned,

"That's easy," he chided,  
"to change yourself into  
something so big."

But, you couldn't change  
yourself into... into...say,  
something as small as a  
mouse, could you?"





With a sneer the ogre transformed himself into a mouse.

Before you could say 'Hey, diddle, diddle' the cat had pounced on the ogre.

The ogre made for a very good supper.



Just then Puss heard the sound of the King's carriage pulling into the court yard.

He hurried out to greet the King and his daughter,





"Welcome to the castle of my master, the Marquis de Carrabas, your majesties."

"So this is your home," the King said to the young man.



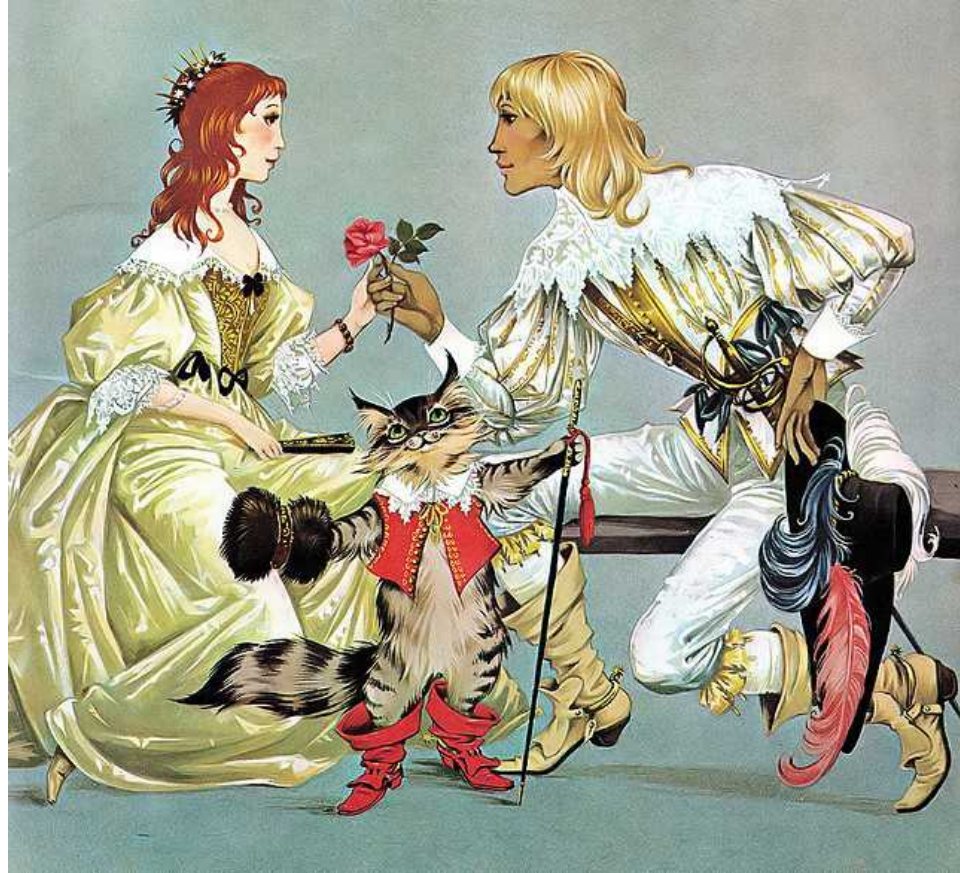
The young man had stopped being astonished by anything his clever cat got up to

His time was now occupied in the company of the beautiful Princess.



The ogre's servants  
were pleased with  
their new master  
and prepared  
the most wonderful  
banquet.

After the feast,  
an engagement  
and a marriage  
all in the one afternoon.





The young man, the  
Marquis de Carrabas,  
his wife, the Princess,  
and Puss in Boots,  
all lived, in the ogre's  
castle,  
happily ever after.

***THE END***





# ABOUT PUSS IN BOOTS

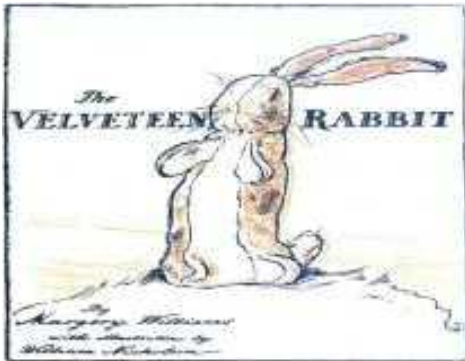
Although usually attributed to Charles Perrault, "Master Cat, or The Booted Cat", commonly known in English as "Puss in Boots", is a European folk tale of unknown origin.

The oldest record of written history is from Italian author Giovanni Francesco Straparola, who included it in his *The Facetious Nights of Straparola* (c. 1550–53) in XIV–XV.

Another version was published in 1634, by Giambattista Basile with the title *Cagliuso*.

The most famous version was written in French at the close of the seventeenth century by Charles Perrault (1628–1703), a retired civil servant and member of the *Académie française*.

The tale appeared in a handwritten and illustrated manuscript two years before its 1697 publication by Barbin in a collection of eight fairy tales by Perrault.



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# Puss in Boots



"Puss in Boots", is a European literary fairy tale about a cat who uses trickery and deceit to gain power, wealth, and the hand of a princess in marriage for his penniless and low-born master.

## About the Author

Kiwi Opa is an accomplished writer, actor, ESL teacher, music industry professional, father and grandfather, and the first official staff member at Free Kids Books.

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