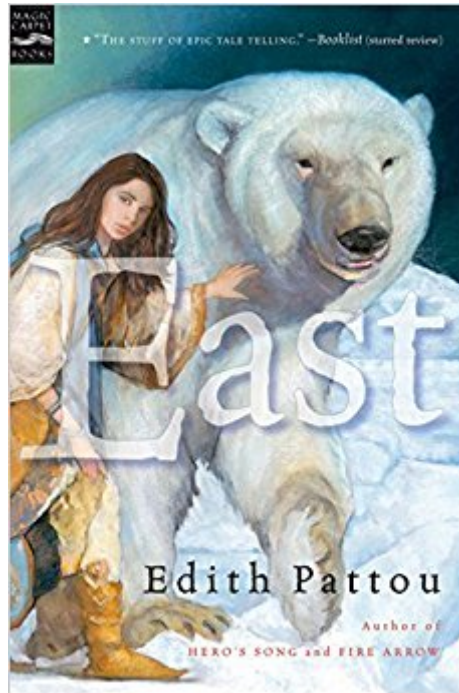




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East



Synopsis

Rose has always felt out of place in her family. So when an enormous white bear mysteriously shows up and asks her to come away with him, she readily agrees. The bear takes Rose to a distant castle, where each night she is confronted with a mystery. In solving that mystery, she finds love, discovers her purpose, and realizes her travels have only just begun. As fresh and original as only the best fantasy can be, *East* is a novel retelling of the classic tale "East of the Sun and West of the Moon," told in the tradition of Robin McKinley and Gail Carson Levine.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

In the rural villages of Norway, there is an ancient belief that children inherit the qualities of the direction in which they are born. Nymah Rose, the last daughter of eight siblings born to a poor mapmaker and his superstitious wife, was a North-born baby. It is said that North-born babies are wild, unpredictable, intelligent, and destined to break their mothers' hearts because they all leave hearth and home to travel to the far ends of the earth. To keep her close, Rose's mother lied and told her she had been born of the obedient and pliable East. But destiny cannot be denied. One day, a great white bear comes to the mapmaker's door to claim Rose's birthright. Everything that comes after, as richly imagined by author Edith Pattou, is the basis for one of the most epic romantic fantasies ever told. *East* is a deftly woven tapestry that melds traditional fairy

tale motifs of both Beauty and the Beast and East of the Sun and West of the Moon, with the haunting icy lore of medieval northern lands. Told in a changing chorus of voices, including that of Rose, her hopeful brother Neddy, her regretful father, the charmed white bear, and the Troll Queen whose selfish wish is the catalyst that seals Rose's fate, East will enchant any and all who venture within its pages. It is a tale for the Ages, and for all ages. Highly recommended. (Ages 12 and older) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6 Up-A compelling novelization of the folktale "East of the Sun and West of the Moon." Rose's story-from her birth as a replacement for a dead sister to her eventual happy marriage to Charles VI's fifth child-is recounted from the kaleidoscopic viewpoints of her father, her brother, the troll queen who bewitched the Dauphin, the White Bear whom the Dauphin became until Rose's rescue, and Rose herself. Each character's unique perspective and voice adds texture and tension to the plot, which is imbued with Nordic mythology and unfolds in a unique story line. Numerous interpersonal tensions are examined, including those between a comparatively "modern" man and his superstitious wife, between the bewitched bear and the women who want to claim him as a mate, and between Rose and the neighbors she meets in each of her worlds. Pattou's writing pitches readers gracefully between myth and fantasy, inviting those unaccustomed to either genre to explore the frozen world of questing that she has so vividly created. Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Until reading this book, I had never heard of the fairy tale, "east of the sun, west of the moon". But when a librarian friend highly recommended this story, I looked up the old tale to get a better understanding of it before diving into this. I came away very impressed with this new interpretation of the old story, and in fact, I actually prefer THIS version over the original tale, as it fleshes out the backstory and characters, and leaves us with something on par with "Beauty and the Beast". In the villages of Norway, sometime during the 16th century, a poor mapmaker and his superstitious wife tend to their seven children; especially keeping an eye on their youngest daughter, Rose. There is an ancient belief that children inherit the qualities of the direction in which they are born, so the wife has a child for each point of the compass, save for North, because it's believed that North-born babies are wild, unpredictable, intelligent, and destined to break their mothers' hearts because they all leave home to travel to the far ends of the earth. As it turns out, Rose is actually the last of EIGHT kids; born to replace one that died of an illness. To keep her close, Rose's mother

lied and told her she had been East-born; never revealing that Rose was actually a North-born. But destiny cannot be denied, and when another sibling falls gravely ill, a talking white bear shows up at the family's door; promising that if Rose leaves home and journeys with him, the family will become happy, healthy, and wealthy. Wanting to save her family, Rose jumps at the chance for an adventure, and leaves with the bear, who whisks her away to a magical castle. There, she discovers the true identity of the white bear...and when her actions harm her new friend and evoke the wrath of a selfish Troll Queen, all of Rose's strength, courage, wits, and new found love will be put to the ultimate test as she braves the deadly Arctic Circle to rescue her bear friend and stop the Troll Queen; an adversary who lives in an ice palace that lies "east of the sun and west of the moon". Simply put, Edith Pattou has created an epic. Her descriptions of Norwegian homesteading; the wildlife and harsh conditions of the Arctic and sailing its unrelenting seas, and the magic of the enchanted castle and ice palace were so vivid, I could picture everything clearly in my head. The author definitely did her research in telling how life was way back when; down to the details of what people wore, ate, and believed in. And such details are never confusing; they're explained in a way that's easily understandable, yet not textbook boring. And I found it very clever how the basics of the old fairy tale were rewoven into this new setting; adding in plot points about the superstitions behind birth directions and compass points, as well as recasting the magical North, South, East, and West winds of the old story to be actual people who help Rose on her adventure. Which brings me to the characters. Although the story is told in the first person, we actually alternate view points between Rose, her father, her brother, the white bear, and the Troll Queen; all of which have their own unique voices and perspectives on the fairy tale unfolding. Rose especially is a great character and role model. Although she's always adventurous, she starts off much more wishful and reckless, but over the course of her harrowing journey to save her friend, she learns to be more patient and careful with her actions, and actually has to WORK to earn her happy ending. While she gets understandably afraid at times, and makes more than a few mistakes, she finds the will and courage to power on through and do the right thing; determined to write her own destiny and not just give in to fate. The only nitpick I could give is that the last act seemed just a tad rushed to me. The villain is defeated rather quickly, and the reasoning and origin behind her white bear servant is left vague. I seemed to like the journey getting there more than the destination itself. But I can forgive it, as the weaving of the classic fairy tale with old Nordic superstitions and Norse mythology and Inuit beliefs had me hooked and made up for it. On the whole, I learned a lot of history about the ancient times of the Arctic, as well as discovered a new fairy tale I had never heard before; all while enjoying a breathtaking adventure. If you like your magic mysterious, and good old fashioned girl power, this is

the book for you.

Definitely a YA book! I loved reading it in middle school, and every so often don't mind rereading it. Its an interesting take on the "beauty and the beast" story. I always loved how the author writes from different points of view in different chapters, usually I find it annoying as all the voices of the characters end up merging together, however the author does an excellent job of keeping each characters' pros unique. Overall, highly recommend!

I love love love this book. I borrowed it from my sister years ago and knew I had to have it for my own library. I just recently bought another copy to give to a fellow book lover for her birthday. This book is very clean and appropriate for all ages. I wasn't familiar with the original fairy tale it is based off of and loved it anyway. At the time I first read it, I thought it was a spin off from Beauty and the Beast. Anyway. It is a very good book. Buy it. You will love it.

This book, I first read in high school, is based on a fairy tale, more so than other adaptations (such as The Polar Bear King) in which a young girl goes with a polar bear to help her family and she is treated with luxury. She finds out that the polar bear is cursed and is really a man, as seen at night. But, curiosity causes trouble and leads the main character to have to go on an adventure to save her polar bear companion from a loophole of the curse before it is too late. This book has action, adventure, family, love, a journey, both literal and within the main character. I have not forgotten this book since I first read it and most likely won't for a long time. It is the type to stay with you.

The best adventure book ever; sort of a Scandinavian Beauty and the Beast, but much richer and enthralling! Having the story told by several characters provided more complexity and depth. My 12 year old daughter and I read aloud each night as we traveled that summer. It's been years and it's still our favorite book. Don't miss this one!

Very great twist on a classic fairytale!

This is a good tale. Not at all like East of the Sun, West of the Moon. It is perfect for times when you want a quick read.

I liked this story. I only seen a old movie version based on this fairy tale so I wasn't fully sure what to

expect out of it. I thought it was interesting. I think the one thing I liked but didn't like was all the different POVs through book. To hear different sides isn't a bad thing, but five different ones, I think it was too many personally - and I kinda wished the White Bear had more of a POV than just in poem form though it makes sense. I may think differently reading this again - I hope to read it sometime in the future.

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