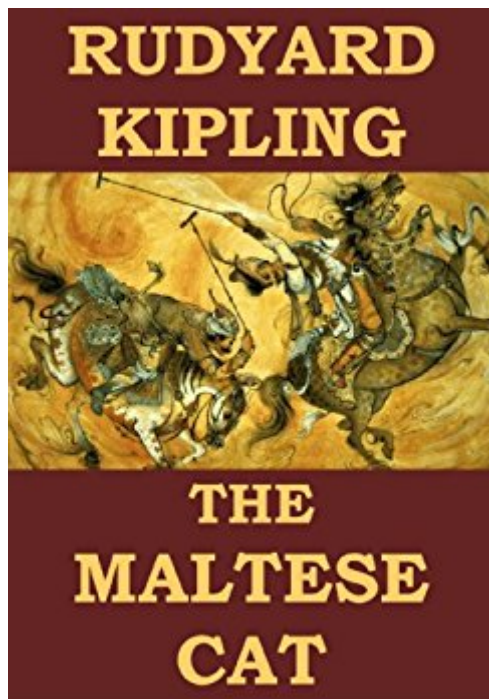


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The Maltese Cat (Annotated)



Synopsis

“The Maltese Cat” is one of the best-known short stories written by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936). First published in 1895, it is set in India at the end of XIXth century. The story is centered around a game of polo between a team of British cavalry and one of Indian infantry. Its main character is a pony named “The Maltese Cat”. This edition also contains a biographical profile of Kipling written by Charles Eliot Norton (1827-1908) in 1891.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Maltese Cat is one of my favorite stories and has been so for over 50 years. If you have not read it stop looking at reviews and read it. The story is definitely 5 star. BUT, it has no annotations! I bought this download hoping to find out what an ekka might be or what Faiz Ullah means. What I get? Zilch! There is a very rusty biographical essay, but no notes. That rates 0 stars if the title says "annotated." My 3 stars is the average of a great story and missing notes. Read this story in a Kipling collection, not in this version.

This is a great story. It is about a polo match in India, probably about 100 years ago. I don't want to

write too much because I don't want to give the story away. I particularly recommend this book to horse people, as a horse is the protagonist in this story.

Most American readers are unfamiliar with the game of polo - but many know something about hockey. If you are one of these, all you need to do to enjoy this great little story is imagine its epic contest as a kind of hockey game played by two teams on horseback. Kipling wrote this story while living in southeastern Vermont in the 1890s. It was first published in the PALL MALL GAZETTE, June 26 and 27, 1895, next in COSMOPOLITAN MAGAZINE, July 1895, and then in book form in his collection of stories THE DAY'S WORK in 1898. "The Maltese Cat" involves the climactic David-versus-Goliath polo match between the two finalists of India's Army's teams. One is the Archangels, a wealthy team that owns enough thoroughbred horses to have fresh mounts every quarter; the other is the Skidars, a team with far less money and far fewer horses, many of which can be characterized as "flea-bitten." And of course these latter are the heroes. And the leader of these horses is the one named The Maltese Cat. The story is not "told from the viewpoint of the horses," as dozens of people have written online. Instead, it focuses mainly on the actions, thoughts, and "words" of the horses on the Skidars' team, who are portrayed as able to understand what their riders are saying - AND able to communicate perfectly with each other. Further, these horses understand the game of polo better than their riders and are able to devise strategies that will offset their own many weaknesses. Of course nearly every reader will know from the first paragraph which team is going to win. The suspense lies only in HOW it will be accomplished - and at what sacrifice. This story is one that readers of all ages (over 12) can understand and love. It has a heartwarming conclusion similar to Doctor Seuss's best stories, and most adults will take delight in Kipling's writing style. And probably this will become a favorite story to read again and again down through the years.

This is the best story about Polo ever written - as a Polo player every time I read it (and that's probably been 50 times) I feel the game and its energy. Its wonderful fantastic writing.

The very best story about polo ponies ever written!!!

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