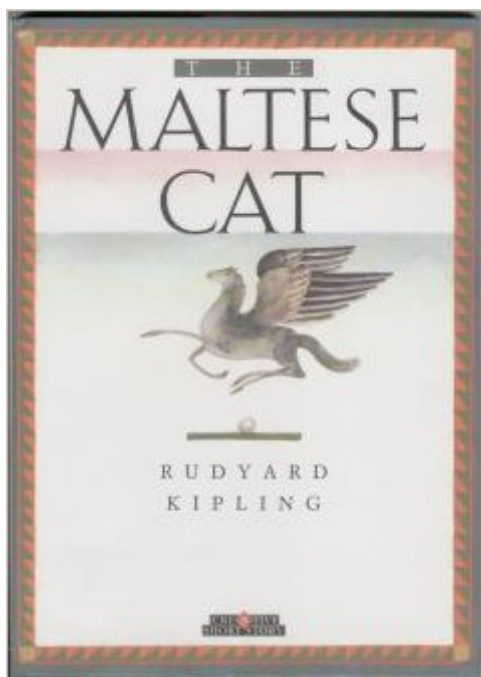


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The Maltese Cat (Creative Short Stories (Hardcover))



Synopsis

The Maltese Cat, a polo pony living among the British in India, achieves glory and honor in the big game against the Archangels.

Book Information

Series: Creative Short Stories (Hardcover)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Creative Education Company (June 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0886824753

ISBN-13: 978-0886824754

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 6.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,283,298 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Polo](#) #2409 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics](#) #573420 in [Books > Textbooks](#)

Customer Reviews

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.

Being a polo player myself, I found *The Maltese Cat* a very interesting and accurate view of the game. Being from the ponies perspective is original and entertaining and it makes me wonder what my ponies are thinking when I play them! Loved reading it to pieces and can read it over and over again...

The Maltese Cat is a good Kipling story about polo from the horse's point of view. It's written as only Kipling can write, very enjoyable. The accompanying illustrations of Remington's Polo sculptures should have been supplemented by Remington's pen and ink illustrations of the game. There aren't enough sculptures to do the story justice and they aren't printed that well. Good story never the less.

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