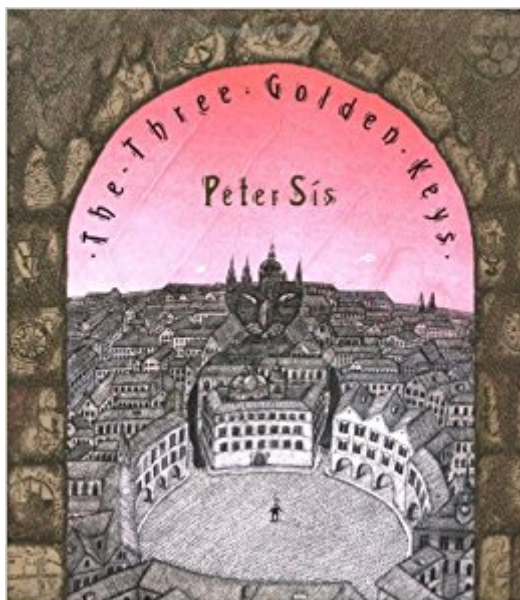


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# The Three Golden Keys



## Synopsis

World-renowned artist brings the magic of Prague and its legends to life. In this allegorical tale, a man in a hot-air balloon is thrown off course in a violent storm, landing him in the city of his youth. He finds the way to his old home, but the house is dark, with three rusty padlocks on the door. A black cat with eyes of fire appears and leads him through Prague's silent streets and monuments in search of the three golden keys that will open the door of his boyhood home and restore the city to life. In this reissue of one of his most personal works, Peter Sís recaptures the wonder of his own lost childhood in Prague and celebrates the city's wonderful cultural heritage, reborn after forty-five years of Communist rule. He wrote it for his young daughter, Madeleine, who is growing up in the New World, so that when she is old enough to understand it she will have a record of the strange and wonderful heritage that is her birthright. An utterly magical book on every level.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Frances Foster Books; 1 Reissue edition (October 3, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374375259

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.5 x 11.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #736,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European #491 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #695 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Caldecott Honor artist Peter Sís (Tibet Through the Red Box) unlocks the mystery of his native Prague with *The Three Golden Keys* (1994). When his wayward hot air balloon alights in the city of his youth, a young man journeys through memory-laden streets in search of the keys that will open the padlocks now bolted to his family home. In a starred review, PW called Sís's volume, with its mix of mystery, magic and Czech folklore "a treasure." Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information,

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Grade 2-4-When a storm blows a man's hot-air balloon off-course, he lands in a city where everything recalls his childhood in Prague. He finds the family house but it is locked with three rusty padlocks. He follows the family cat through the empty streets to the library, the Emperor's garden, and the famous town-square clock. In each place, figures from the past emerge from the walls and unroll a scroll that holds a key and relates the traditional Czech legends of Prince Bruncvik and his magic sword, the Golem, and Hanus the clockmaker. With the three keys in hand, he returns home where he recollects voices, sounds, and pictures. From the foreword to his daughter to the first-person voice, Sis has created a personal journey that is multilayered with images, memories, and symbols. The art itself is layered with felines, faces, and ghostly figures imposed over backgrounds, camouflaged in streets and structures, and emerging from misty reflections. With tiny, delicate lines and meshlike textures, the artist's distinctive style is evocative. The scroll stories are handscripted in numbered sequences with a pictogram bordering the two-page spreads. The tiny handwriting is so intricate it requires close focus. Overall the book is intriguing, with visual and textual subtleties interconnecting with cultural and historical ties. Older picture book readers should appreciate the beauty of the illustrations and the symbolism. Julie Cummins, New York Public Library Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After being to Prague and learning from one of the professors there about Peter Sis I returned home to my University work. At lunch with a friend recently, she mentioned Peter Sis and The Three Golden Keys. I found it on Amazon and purchased it. It is such a character building story for all of us. It calls us to realize the importance of our actions and treatment of others. The illustrations are carefully crafted. It is an inspiring book that every parent should read and discuss with their child.

Gift for my fiancé, who loves Peter Sis. He was thrilled. It actually ended up being a signed copy! Beautiful condition.

I love good illustrators. Got this on the recommendation of a friend and was not disappointed. Really for adults but could also be for kids.

This book arrives promptly and in excellent condition. In it, Sis revisits his hometown of Prague and

its old haunts after the fall of the Iron Curtain. As with all Sis books, it is exquisitely illustrated with a flavor of the Middle Ages.

loved it

satisfied

I LOVE Petr Sis's books - he is a wonderful artist and I have all of his books I can get :)

I don't have children and am well over the age this book was written for. But I am from Eastern Europe, love cats and good drawings. I enjoyed the writing and the drawings are beautiful.

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