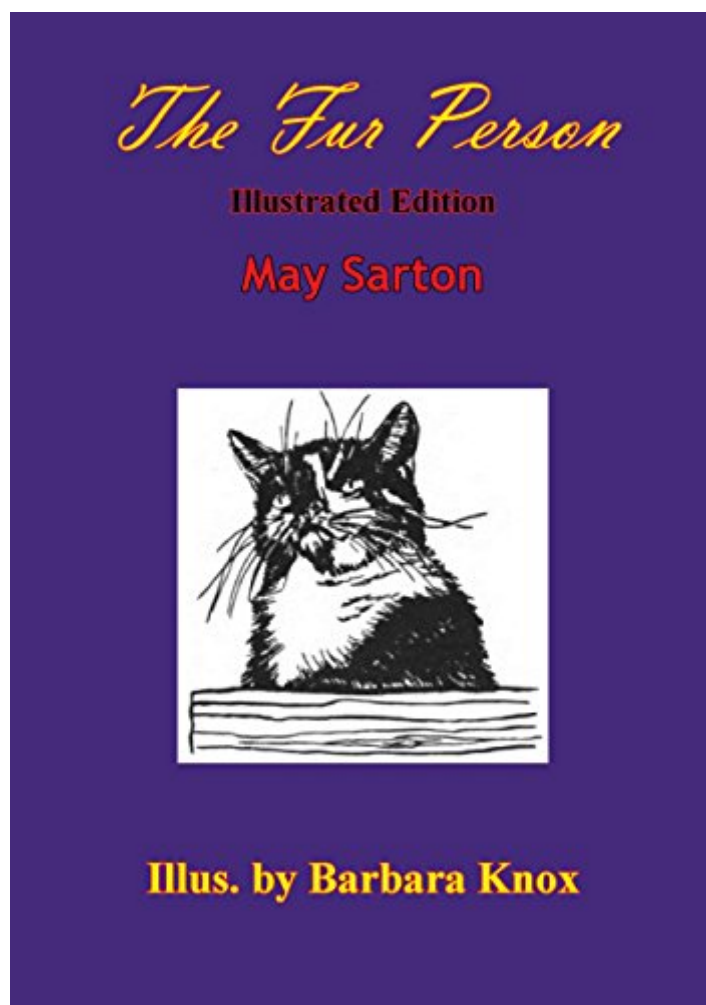


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# The Fur Person [Illustrated Edition]



## Synopsis

Includes 10 illustrations by Barbara Knox A delightful, whimsical tale – one of the most popular books for cat lovers ever written. May Sarton’s fictionalized account of her cat Tom Jones’s life and adventures prior to making the author’s acquaintance begins with a fiercely independent, nameless street cat who follows the ten commandments of the Gentleman Cat – including “A Gentleman Cat allows no constraint of his person, not even loving constraint.” But after several years of roaming, Tom has grown tired of his vagabond lifestyle, and he concludes that there might be some appeal after all in giving up the freedom of street life for a loving home. It will take just the right human companion, however, to make his transformation from Cat About Town to genuine Fur Person possible. Sarton’s book is one of the most beloved stories ever written about the joys and tribulations inherent in sharing one’s life with a cat.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had read it many years ago and bought this copy for a gift. A friend of mine had taken a cat from someone who could no longer keep it. My friend was not a cat person. She intended to find a good home for Baby, the cat involved. Time dragged on and no home was found. Meanwhile she became more and more attached to Baby, daily recounting her misadventures to us. As she became more and more of a cat-lady I determined to get this wonderful book for her. The book is first person by the fur person himself, very well done, very enjoyable. His change, over time, from a wild scamp to pleasant gentleman is very entertaining.

I've now purchased 4 copies, for my cat loving friends. My fur people enjoy the quiet language and lack of violence. We particularly liked how Tom Jones became a Quaker Cat after he was altered. This is a truly wonderful book, more for adults or for adults to read to children with explanation than a kid's book. Lovely!

A veterinarian at one of the top veterinary hospitals in the US recommended this book to me because our cat reminds her so much of the cat in the book. I read it in a day and am astonished by the similarities between our story and that of the book. The book is beautifully written for adults--and sophisticated children! It is clearly based on a real story. I know; I am living a very similar story. What makes the storytelling extraordinary is the author's perception of the cat's view of his world. This is essential reading for all cat lovers.

I loved this book, it is so sweet. Told from the fur person's view point, it really represents the love between a cat and it's staff.... Having two cats myself, I know that I just exist to help and protect them.

A how-to book for every Cat About Town who is in search of just the right human housekeeper. After an interview with an overly-demonstrative and exceptionally needy human goes wrong, the author (a street cat who has had his fill of adventure) decides to be far more selective in his choice of employees and takes up residence with not just one but a pair of older females who prove to be perfect staff for the Fur Person he has become. This ideal living situation inspires Tom Jones (for all Persons of Fur must have a proper name) to deep philosophical musings leading to his rewriting of the Rules for Cats -- quite a lot for one feline (no matter how portly and well-groomed). Delightful book written with classically droll British humor!

An interesting book dealing with how a cat thinks and lives. Written as though it were for children, but the advanced vocabulary might be too difficult for younger people.

In this short charming story of the life of one Tom Jones, a cat named after the literary figure by the same name because both were foundlings, the prolific May Sarton is writing at her best. In sparse but eloquent prose, she lets the reader inside the head and heart of this special feline-- based on her own cat of course-- and simultaneously lets you into her big heart as well. The story ultimately is about a cat, who after a life in the streets, decides to settle down and, by trial and error, finally selects a home and his "housekeepers," certainly an appropriate word since anyone who knows anything about cats knows that at best they are housemates and never owned by anyone. "A Gentleman Cat is never hasty when choosing a housekeeper." These housekeepers are identified by Tom as "Brusque Voice," (May Sarton) and "Gentle Voice," (her companion Judy Matlack) and if it is not a relationship made in heaven, it certainly is not a marriage made in hell. Tom wants to abandon his life as a Cat About Town and become a Cat of Peace as well as a Gentleman Cat. A very bright cat, Tom does yoga and composes songs. He also has The Ten Commandments of the Gentleman Cat that he lives by; and in the end, adds an Eleventh Commandment as well which gives this charming story its ultimate meaning. Ms. Sarton's journals are filled with references to her animals. She obviously was wise when it came to understanding them and manages to avoid, unlike so many writers about cats, the cutesy-- a word one would never use to describe anything about this writer anyway--but tells a moving story without being sentimental. This is quite simply as good a story as you will find about a quasi-fictional cat. In her introduction to this new edition, Ms. Sarton says that she was gratified when a nine-year-old child wrote her to tell her that this is the best book the youngster had ever read. You can read it in one sitting with your own cat in your lap. Or better still, why not read it aloud to a child. An added treat to this edition is the lush watercolor illustrations of Jared Taylor Williams.

I read this book in my youth, many decades ago... I had forgotten the book long ago, but many of its visions had stuck with me, including "reading the newspaper" and "starfish paws", which I had shorted to "star-paws" over the years. Recently, after a fair bit of research, I re-discovered the book, and I'm \*sooooo\* grateful to have the chance to read it again. I want to marry \*both\* of those old ladies (though they don't need me!!), and would love for Tom to curl up in my lap. An absolutely magical tail (with a white tip)

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