

The Song of the Swan by Karah Sutton

Illustrations by Pauliina Hannuniemi

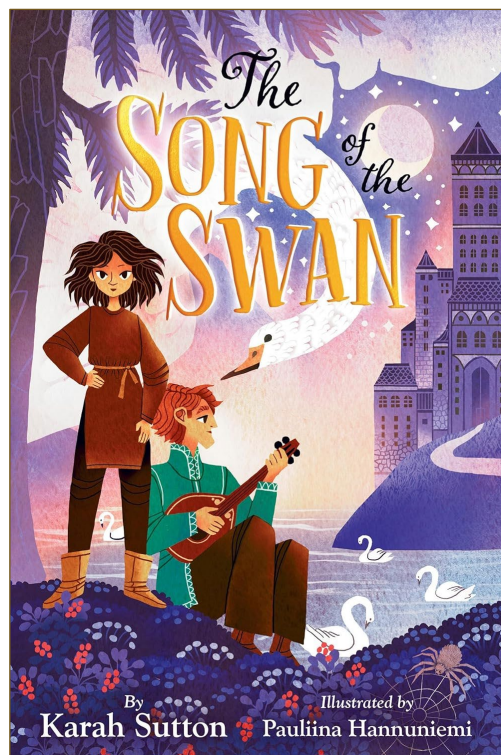
Sell Sheet

A magical retelling of Swan Lake, featuring a clever orphan, a castle filled with enchanted swans, and a quest to unearth the secrets of the past.

Olga is an orphan and a thief, relying on trickery and sleight of hand to make her way in the world. But it's magic, not thievery, that could get her into trouble.

When Olga and her partner-in-crime Pavel learn of a valuable jewel kept in a secluded castle, Olga sees an opportunity to change their lives: a prize so big, they'd never have to steal again. But the castle is not as it seems, ruled by an enchanter who hosts grand balls every night, only for the guests to disappear each morning, replaced by swans. Guided by cryptic clues from the palace spiders, Olga soon realizes she's in over her head—torn between a bargain with the enchanter, loyalty to Pavel, and determination to understand how the enchanted swans are linked to her own fate.

One thing is certain: there is dark magic behind the castle's mysteries, and Olga will stop at nothing to unmask it.



Knopf Books for Young Readers
Middle Grade (8-12)
288 Pages | 5-1/2 x 8-1/4
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Audio ISBN 978-0593747735
Library bind ISBN 978-0593121702

Past praise for A Wolf for a Spell:

A Junior Library Guild selection, American Booksellers' Association Indies Introduce selection, Indie Next Fall 2020 Top 10, Goodreads 2021 nomination for Best Children's Book of the Year, Bank Street College of Education list of Best Books of 2020

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About the Author

Karah Sutton is an American/New Zealand author and former bookseller. Inspired by her many years as a ballet dancer, *The Song of the Swan* is her second novel. Her first novel, *A Wolf for a Spell*, also features illustrations by Pauliina Hannuniemi and is available from Knopf Books for Young Readers

Karah is experienced in talking to groups in person and virtually about a range of topics, including her writing as well as her experience in the video game and film industries. Karah is available for school visits, talks, and other events.



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“An enchanting fairy tale. . . . The characters are interesting, and the story, lovingly inspired by the ballets Giselle and Swan Lake, moves briskly.” —Kirkus Reviews

“Wise spiders, magical threads, and flawed illusions anchor this traditionally structured fantasy that nods to Swan Lake, focused on a child who uses her magical powers to help her swindling merchant caretaker.” —Publishers Weekly

“Ripe for fairytale fans. . . . As in her acclaimed debut, Sutton conjures a folkloric Eastern European setting. . . . and illustrator Hannuniemi lends a cozy feel with angular black-and-white renderings. Like the ballet it’s inspired by, this middle-grade fantasy emphasizes the power of choice.” —Booklist

“Sutton’s prose shines in this fast-paced adventure featuring engaging characters, a unique take on magic, and some truly creepy moments. I loved it!” —J.A. White, award-winning author of *Nightbooks*

Classroom Connections:

Swan Lake and ballet – The book is a retelling of the ballet Swan Lake, told from the point of view of a minor character. Opportunities for discussion involve the ballet itself, as well as the elements of Slavic folklore present in this retelling.

Animals and the environment – The book plays with perceptions of animals, particularly swans and spiders.

Morality and the power of choice – The story features characters making questionable choices, and a narrator asks the reader to consider and discuss further.

Craft study – literary writing with examples of descriptive language, sensory detail, metaphor, simile, assonance, alliteration, and personification.

Selling points:

- **Mystery and adventure** with exciting plot twists and turns
- Fun for **animal lovers**, with swan/birds as well as mischievous spiders
- The **story of Swan Lake** uniquely retold, ideal for students of ballet
- Discussions of **music** and its impact, perfect for young music lovers
- 30+ gorgeous black-and-white **illustrations** by Pauliina Hannuniemi, the illustrator of *A Wolf for a Spell*
- Lyrical and sparkling prose, perfect for **reading aloud**

