



2002

Puss in Cowboy Boots

Donna Cardon

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Huling, Jan. *Puss in Cowboy Boots*. Illustrated by Phil Huling. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN 0689831196. \$18.00. 40pp.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading level: primary

Rating: excellent

Genre: Fairytales; Picture book

Subject: Fairy tales; Folklore—France; Book—reviews;

In this Texan version of the traditional Puss in Boots story, almost every element has been Texas-ized. The main character, Dan, is the son of a rodeo clown. His faithful cat courts the favor of a wealthy oil baron. The cat outsmarts the "biggest, the meanest, the cattle rustlingest, oil-guzzlingest outlaw of an ogre" and wins for Dan a large ranch famous for its Texas barbeque. During the big "shindig" Dan proposes to the oil baron's artistic daughter, Rosie May.

This tale is packed full of clever Texanisms and snappy southern dialog. Huling's playful, full-page watercolor illustrations reflect the warm sunny desert colors. The characters are all elongated Texas tall. This book begs to be read aloud with a strong southern accent. It is a fresh and fun addition to any "Fractured Fairytale" collection.