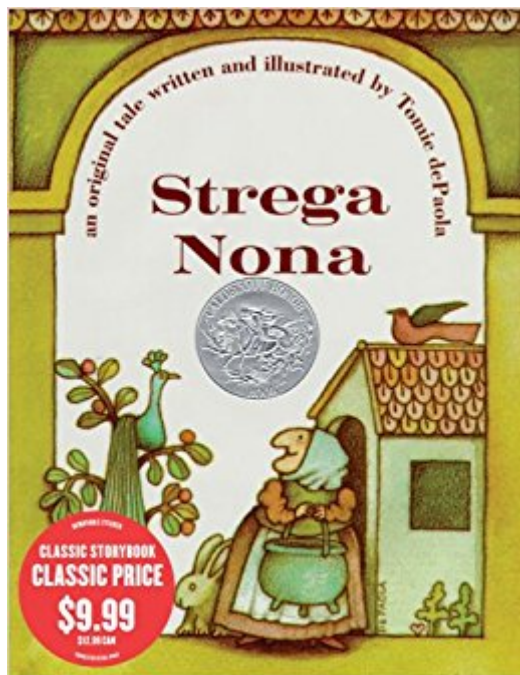


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Strega Nona



Synopsis

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Age Range: 4 and up

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Customer Reviews

Eric Carle and Tomie dePaola: Author One-on-One Eric Carle is the creator, author, and illustrator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and many other children's books. Tomie dePaola is the author and illustrator of *Strega Nona* and countless other books. They recently had a conversation about their careers as picture book authors.

Tomie dePaola: When I was only four years old, I announced to my family in particular and to the world in general that I was going to become an artist, and write stories and draw pictures for books. I never swayed from that early declaration. I've always been curious to know, what inspired you to become a creator and illustrator of picture books?

Eric Carle: My career began as a graphic designer and for a number of years I worked as an art director for an advertising agency in New York. In the mid 1960's Bill Martin, Jr. saw an ad of a red lobster that I had designed and asked me to illustrate his *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Well, I was set on fire! I was so inspired by this book, and the opportunity to illustrate it changed my life. After that, I started to create my own books, both words and pictures, and really it was then that I had found my true course in life. Now, I have a question for you, Tomie. How would you describe your artistic style, and has it changed over time?

Tomie dePaola: My illustration style is heavily influenced by folk art--strong simple shapes, bold lines,

color, color, color and a deceptive simplicity. My style began to develop early in art school, and through the years, it hasn't changed very much, but it has refined itself. How would you describe yours? Eric Carle: My aim with my work is to simplify and refine, be logical and harmonious. I like to use simple shapes, bright colors and a lot of white space. I write for the child inside of me. That is always where I begin. Tomie dePaola: I do, as well. The only audience I keep in mind is that four-year-old in me. People sometimes ask me what advice I would give to young artists. I always think of the wonderful advice I received from my twin cousins when they were in art school in the late '30s. They told me, "Practice, practice, practice and don't copy." Eric Carle: I often tell people about the four magic letters: DO IT. I want to be encouraging but I can only offer the example of my own experience, which is just one approach. There are many wonderful artists to learn about, which is important. But you must use your own imagination. You have to just do it. Tomie dePaola: How do you feel knowing that a copy of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is sold every 30 seconds, somewhere in the world? Eric Carle: It is hard for me, maybe for others too, to grasp this concept. But I am truly honored that my story is enjoyed by so many and that it is now being shared by a generation of parents who grew up with my book. How about your Strega Nona. She is one of your most popular characters. Can you share how she came to be? Tomie dePaola: In the 1970s when I was teaching at a college, we were required to attend faculty meetings. I always sat in the back with a yellow legal pad. Everyone thought I was taking notes. At one meeting a doodle appeared of a little lady with a big nose and a big chin. I named her Strega Nona, and the rest is history. Speaking of history, how will you be celebrating the third annual Very Hungry Caterpillar Day this year? Eric Carle: On The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day, March 20th, I will probably be at home with my wife, Bobbie (I am a bit of a hermit, actually). But I will be saying a little toast to the caterpillar for whom I have a special place in my heart. And speaking of holidays, isn't your favorite holiday Christmas. Do you have a special Christmas memory? Tomie dePaola: Christmas is my favorite holiday. My favorite Christmas was the one when I received tons and tons of art supplies: everything from an easel to paints, pads and pads of paper, and "how to draw" books.

The New York Times Book Review "De Paola's illustrations aptly capture the whimsy of this ancient tale... simple line drawings clearly reveal the agony and ecstasy of pasta power, the muted colors create just the right ambiance for a Medieval village." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read this book as a child and loved it. So when I saw it on the shelf at B&N I was thrilled - wasn't so thrilled with the B&N price though. Then I found it on the price was killer so I picked it up. This story is an excellent example of the cost of "not listening" to important instruction. The boy instructed not to touch the witch's magic cooking pot, does so anyways and is dismayed when mounds and mounds of spaghetti fill the town. When Strega Nona returns and stops the spaghetti, she charges the boy with cleaning up his mess by eat all the spaghetti. It teaches, in a fun way, about unintended consequences to our actions.

Love this story and so do my grandkids!! We couldn't find the book the other night at bedtime so I downloaded it. The only reason that I didn't give it 5 stars was the format. I don't care for this type of Kindle book. I like it in regular book format, a page at a time. This format is too small for me to read. Luckily, my grandkids can read it out loud!

This is, by far, one of my all time favorite books! I remember being read it when I was a child and, after I purchased it for myself and re-read it, got flooded with the memories once again. This is a fantastic book from the mind of Tomie dePaola in which a kind witch, who helps many people in and out of her village, tells her new helper not to use her magical pasta pot while she's away. He doesn't listen and, true to the nature of things, havoc ensues as pasta floods the village. Leave it to Strega Nona to come to the rescue while imparting on him a valuable lesson about listening and learning from your actions. It's a must read :)

Best book ever! I've been reading this book for many many years!! My shin who is now 29 his son who is 8 when he was little and now my granddaughter that is 3 and my girls that are now 22 & 17 they ALL enjoy it!!

Such a great story from my childhood. I bought this for a baby shower, knowing it was the mom to be's favorite book growing up. I think it will make it all the more special to read her daughter! Great story, funny plot and a must read!

Love this book for my little one! Mainly because I read it when I was a child, so nostalgic.

A fun, well-written fairy tale about a greedy guy and a clever older woman. Older woman are rarely portrayed positively, I say. And now that I'm quickly becoming one, I seek out stories that put us in

the best possible light. Strega Nona is a witch, yes, but not a bad witch. She just has magical powers. I love this story, and my daughter does too.

Pasta, pasta boiling pot! Great memories reading and watching as school plays when I was a kid. Tonight, i decided to share with my kids. Instant success: and the book still makes me hungry, yummy pasta!

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Strega Nona

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