



Luthe in West

illustrated by Olsi Tola



Frontispiece:

Not so long ago, there lived a lovely sorceress named Silhouette, whose magic was woven into the stories she told. This is one of those stories.

Cat Soup

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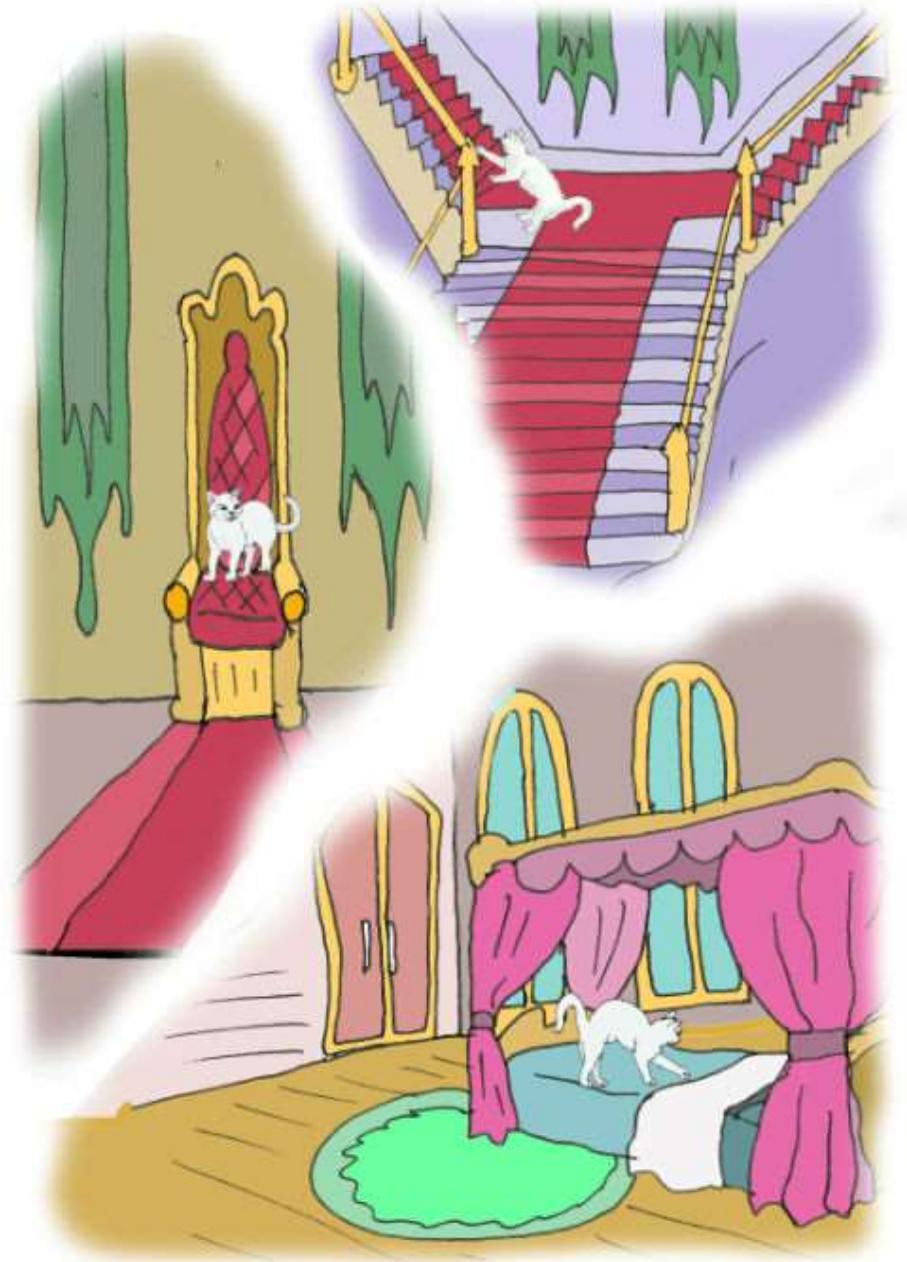
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Once upon a time...

. . . in the kingdom of Bandon, a certain little silver-white cat belonged to a princess. She loved him very much.

A castle is a very big place for one cat to hunt and play. The courtyard and gardens make it as big as a whole world to one small cat. The princess would often call out through the halls and rooms and gardens. "Here kitty, kitty!" And the silver-white kitty would respond with his own delicate "meow" and come running to her.



One day when a travelling tinker came to sell new pots to the cook, kitty got to be playing in the courtyard. He chased a butterfly to the top of the tinker's cart and fell inside! Of course, the tinker didn't know the cat was inside when he closed the wagon up tight.

The tinker's next stop was many miles away. When he did stop and open the cart, the frightened cat jumped out and ran away. Knowing whose cat it was, the tinker went in search of it.



By nightfall, when her cat did not come in, the princess worried. For days, everyone in the castle and the yards and gardens went out calling. "Here kitty, kitty." Many cats and kittens mewed and came running to the callers. But there came no delicate "meow" and no little silver-white cat running.

The princess began to cry. Oh, she sounded so sad like her little heart was broken. The king, who felt sad for his only little girl, sent out an announcement that he would give up to half his kingdom to the one who could find the princess's cat.

