



Cover of the original 1973 edition of *The Princess Bride*, written by William Goldman and submitted to the Copyright Office for registration.

As You Wish: A Copyright History of *The Princess Bride*

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The Library of Congress added *The Princess Bride* to the National Film Registry in 2016, and the film kicked off the Library's 2017 summer film festival on Capitol Hill. The 1987 hit film, directed by Rob Reiner, is wildly popular and still widely quoted thirty years later.

It all started with the book **The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure**, the Good Parts Version, written by William Goldman in 1973. Goldman wrote it as an "abridgement" of a story he claimed his grandfather read him. That original book spawned many other creative works. The book was registered with the Copyright Office in 1973, and then a twenty-fifth anniversary edition (with a sample chapter from a purported forthcoming sequel) was registered in 1999. The Library receives many **requests** for S. Morgenstern's "real" book, as read to the boy by his grandfather in the movie, but it doesn't exist.

Goldman wrote the screenplay for the movie in 1986. The movie was registered for copyright with a deposit of six rolls of film. It cited previous registration as the screenplay, novel, and words and music,

but all other cinematographic material as new matter.

Mark Knopfler wrote and recorded the film's soundtrack. Each song was registered with the office separately by Chariscourt, Ltd., employer for hire of Mark Knopfler. The sound recording of the soundtrack was registered separately by Phonogram, Ltd.

A sound recording of the book on tape also is registered with the office. It is read by director Rob Reiner.

Several sequel screenplays have been registered with the Office. In 1993 Christopher David Gauntt registered *The Sword-master Bride* screenplay inspired by William Goldman's *The Princess Bride*. In 1999, Michael Edward Ryan registered *The Pirate Groom*, which stated the work is a sequel to *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman. No sequel has been made though—maybe because it would be... Inconceivable! ©