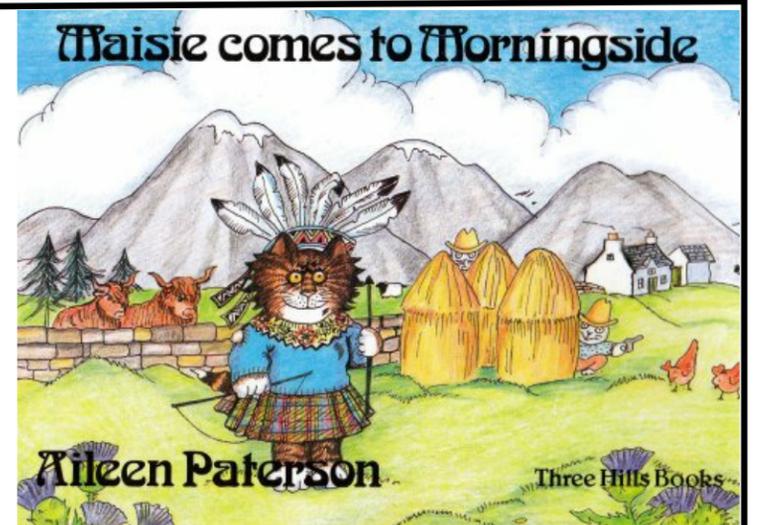


# Aileen Francis Paterson 1934-2018

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## Author and illustrator

**A**ileen Paterson is the creator of Maisie the cat, beloved by children and the young-at-heart around the world. She was born, eldest of two children, to William and Helen Henderson in 1934 in Burntisland, Fife. The family moved to Kirkcaldy in 1946. Aileen went to Kirkcaldy High School and her early artistic talent led to her winning a newspaper drawing competition.



Encouraged by her mother, Aileen went to Edinburgh College of Art in 1951. She graduated in 1955 in design and crafts, with pottery as a specialist subject. It was also here that she developed a love for Edinburgh.

Married to Bayo Ayodeji in 1955, they had three daughters. Living in Dublin, Aileen had a pottery studio but returned to Kirkcaldy after her divorce. Following teacher training at Moray House in Edinburgh, qualifying in 1962, she taught art through the 1960s to 1980s. Her second marriage to Hamish Paterson in 1963 led to the birth of a daughter and two sons. The family lived in various places round the UK. The last-born son, Max, sadly died of leukaemia aged 11. He is remembered on this stone.

Following her divorce from Hamish, Aileen returned to Edinburgh, eventually settling in Morningside and teaching at Craigroyston School. It was in Morningside that Maisie - a naughty, brave, lively kitten - started her career in published books in 1984 by coming to stay with her granny. From 1984 to 2008, Maisie went on to have over 30

beautifully illustrated adventures in various parts of the world, as well as in more everyday situations.

Maisie also became a star on the side of the No.5 bus, though the journey from The Jewel to Hunter's Tryst, through Morningside and The Grange, was



very low-key compared to her international travels!

Made an MBE in 2015 for services to children's literature, Aileen was said to be self-effacing, intelligent, witty, and stylish in dress. She moved to the Abbeyhill Colonies in the 1980s and died in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 2018. Maisie will continue to delight readers for many more years.

