

The White Book

Irbisgreif

Part One of Seventeen: The Call to Adventure

As I got onto the bus that day,
I saw a time-worn Frau.
Her hair, once blond, was now a grey,
And sweat was on her brow.

The bus was full and so I sat
Myself down next to her. 5
She carried only a worn book
Strangely bound in fur.

I looked at it and then to her,
"I don't mean to hover, 10
"But what is with that book?" I said,
"It has the strangest cover."

She turned to me and with a smile
Pressed it to my body,
The silky white fur touched my hand, 15
And my whole world went foggy.

"That is *the* White Book." she spoke
"And do not ask me how."
She set it in my lap and sighed;
"I think *you* need it now." 20

She looked ahead, the deed was done,
Nothing more did she say.
Since that strange bus ride I have had
That book until today.

The text inside that book? You ask, 25
"What did it contain?"
The tale of that has just begun,
So please let me explain.

The story of that book is long;
I suggest that you relax. 30
I have quite the tale to tell you,
And must arrange the facts.