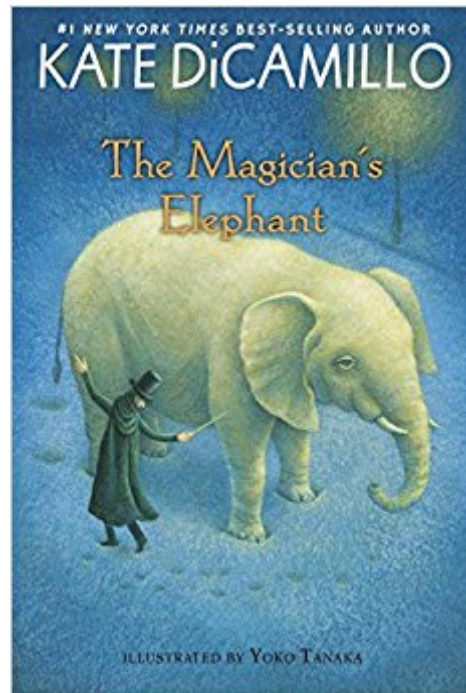




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The Magician's Elephant



Synopsis

A classic tale by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo, America's beloved storyteller. When a fortuneteller's tent appears in the market square of the city of Baltese, orphan Peter Augustus Duchene knows the questions that he needs to ask: Does his sister still live? And if so, how can he find her? The fortuneteller's mysterious answer (an elephant! An elephant will lead him there!) sets off a chain of events so remarkable, so impossible, that you will hardly dare to believe it's true. With atmospheric illustrations by fine artist Yoko Tanaka, here is a dreamlike and captivating tale that could only be narrated by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo. In this timeless fable, she evokes the largest of themes—hope and belonging, desire and compassion—with the lightness of a magician's touch. With dreamlike illustrations and a new cover by Yoko Tanaka.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 331 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Best of the Month, September 2009: Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo--author of *The Tale of Despereaux* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*--has crafted another exquisite novel for young readers. *The Magician's Elephant* tells the tale of Peter Augustus Duchene, a ten-year-old orphan who receives an unbelievable piece of information from the local fortuneteller. Peter learns that his fate is tied to an elephant that has inexplicably fallen from the sky when a

magician's trick goes terribly wrong. Why did it happen? And, how can an elephant possibly change the course of Peter's life? This darkly atmospheric, yet hopeful tale, demonstrates that when the answers to life's big questions are opaque or unforthcoming, all is not lost. DiCamillo's rhythmic writing, combined with Yoko Tanaka's mysterious black-and-white illustrations, enchants and calls out to our sincerest wishes and dreams (recommended for readers ages 8-13). --Lauren Nemroff

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Gr 4-6-When a fortuneteller informs Peter Augustus Duchene, a 10-year-old orphan, that his younger sister is alive, a magical tale unfolds, interweaving the lives of unusual characters including an elephant that inexplicably crashes through the roof of the opera house as a result of a magic trick gone wrong. This sometimes mysterious and shadowy, but ultimately hopeful tale reminds us that even in the darkest of times, all is not lost. Written by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo, this superb tale (Candlewick, 2009) is another example of her exceptional storytelling skills. Juliet Stevenson brings the haunting tale to life with a brilliant repertoire of voices that creates the illusion of a multicastr performance. This tale is meant to be listened to and is sure to be appreciated and treasured by listeners.-Amy Joslyn, Fairport Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

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Review by a 9 year-old kid who loves K. DiCamillo's books:"She lives!" - that's what Peter said when the fortuneteller had told him that his sister was not dead and that an elephant would lead him to her. This powerful belief led Peter through a spell-bounding journey where the impossible becomes possible.A Magician conjures an elephant, which comes crashing through the ceiling of the Opera House. In an imaginary town where there were no elephants. This event was somehow connected to Adele, Peter's sister.The author develops each character in this story showing all their emotions and imperfections. I think this author is very well in tune with people's emotions and she knows so well how to translate feelings into words. Also she describes imaginary places with such detail and emotion that it feels that you are there. The reader connects with the characters because they have dimension and depth.I really enjoyed this book most of all because of characters seem real. It is so well written that I felt like reading more of Kate DiCamillo's books. And I did. And I loved them. "(from the kids books review blog IsabelasBookNook.com)

The Magician's Elephant - Kate Dicamilloillustrated by Yoko Tanaka4 starsThe story begins in the

fictional, central European town of Baltese , "At the end of the century before the last". It is clear that there has been a war. There is a pervasive atmosphere of sorrow, want and hopelessness in the setting. Enter the orphan, Peter Augustus Duchene, a fortune teller, a magician "of failing reputation" , and an elephant. What follows is a mysterious, magical story in which hope and faith eventually triumph. The black and white illustrations are subtly evocative, and add much to the magical atmosphere of the story. I was enchanted with this story. Had I read it as a child, this would have been a five star book for me. However, I was not a typical reader. I think The Magician's Elephant would have limited appeal for the ordinary 8 to 12 year-old. It would find favor with the bright readers who have an early appreciation of good literature. With careful guidance, it might stimulate some good discussion as a read-a-loud.

Kate DiCamillo is by far one of my favorite children's authors. A preview of this book is in the end of The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, and it had us hooked. (We've read Edward Tulane several times -- a GREAT read). The best part about all of her books is that there is a deep meaning to all of them, and they deal with tough issues like loss and the complications of family love/bonds, but when there are things like elephants magically appearing, it keeps the kids greatly interested. This book tells the tale from many different view points. I'm not sure the exact reading level, but I imagine this would be hard for an 8-9 year old to read on their own. However, it is such a great story that I recommend reading it out loud as a family anyway.

This book appeals to my fourth grade students' love for imaginative, humorous, offbeat tales. Kate DiCamillo is one of our most favorite authors.

My 5 year old can't stop giggling when I read this to her.

Oh my goodness this book is so beautifully written! DiCamillo is a wonderful weaver of words, her books are like tapestries hung on ancient castle walls to beautify the wall and hold back the cold and noise of the world. She brings a sliver of hope and light to the weary heart.

I think people of every age group will enjoy this easy read.

This story is all over the place and has useless thoughts from almost all characters. The story is weird from the get and jumps around a lot.

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