

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

By Author, Kate DiCamillo

Reviewed by: Jake 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Edward Tulane is a china rabbit, and a constant companion to Abilene Tulane, his owner. At the beginning of his story, Edward is a stuck-up rabbit who cares more about his appearance than Abilene. After boarding a cruise ship with the Tulane family, two boys grab him from Abilene and throw him back and forth, ultimately sending him overboard. Many disasters happen to Edward after he falls overboard, but he is saved by various people on his journey. Through these chance encounters and countless new names, he starts to feel fear, appreciation, and ultimately love. A heartwarming story about finding love in a world he has no control over, Edward does find his way home but will always remember the people he loved and left.

The most moving part of the story was when Edward meets a four-year-old called Sarah Ruth who was very ill and died very young. While her illness is described in great detail, her short time alive made her love Edward that much more. Though Edward had many owners throughout his journey home, she was the one who made the biggest impact on me, and perhaps on Edward as well. Following her death, he feels empty and all he wants to do is dance for her again. The author does a good job of humanizing Edward at the beginning, and the events that happen feel deserved because he doesn't know how to love. As the story progresses, we start to empathize with Edward because he is heartbroken every time he is forced to leave someone. I think that a lot of people can understand this feeling when a friend has to leave or move away.

I would recommend this book for children ages 10+. The biggest warning would be for Sarah Ruth's death, as it was easily the saddest part of the book. The book does a good job of dealing with the aftermath of a death, as her brother Bryce grieves and wants to hold onto Edward as a piece of her. I would recommend gifting this to anyone, especially people who enjoy adventures and making new friends.

Recommended Titles:

Because of Winn Dixie – Kate DiCamillo

The One and Only Ivan – Katherine Applegate

The Tale of Despereaux – Kate DiCamillo

Esperanza Rising – Pam Muñoz Ryan