

Book Title : The Magician's Elephant
Book Author: Kate DiCamillo
Reviewer: Theodora Aina, adult
Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are Charity
www.bethestaryouare.org

Peter Augustus Duchene is a 10 year old orphan who is studying to be a soldier. He lives in Baltese in the century before the last one, with a soldier who is his teacher. One day, he is sent into town on an errand. On a whim, he decides to use the food money in his pocket to ask a local fortune teller one simple question that has been on his mind for a long time. "Is my sister alive?" he says to the fortune teller. And the fortune teller replies, "She lives!" Peter is overjoyed. But then the fortune teller adds, "To find her, you must follow the elephant." Peter is heartbroken. The fortune teller can't possibly be telling the truth. For there are no elephants in Baltese. There never has been.

But then, one fine day, something goes awry with the town magician. And lo and behold out of nowhere, and to the surprise of all the villagers, an elephant appears. After its strange appearance, one event after another happens, all of which appear to be mysteriously connected. So begins Peter's quest to find his sister.

I loved this book. The way of the quest is unique and so are the characters. But the characters are also very realistic. The story has a folktale kind of feel to it. It moves quickly. Each character has their own story which meshes with everyone else's story. Peter is a clever boy who knows what he wants and doesn't let obstacles get in the way of getting what he needs to make things right.

Highly Recommended 8-12 years

Recommended Titles

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate Di Camillo
The Tale of Despereaux by Kate Di Camillo
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate Di Camillo