



## Ella the Elegant Elephant

*Carmela D'Amico , Steve D'Amico (Illustrator)*

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**Ella the Elegant Elephant** Carmela D'Amico , Steve D'Amico (Illustrator)

Ella's counting the days until the first day of school ... but not because she's eager to start! On the contrary, as the littlest elephant on Elephant Island, she's terribly nervous about the other kids she'll meet. Then she receives a beautiful red hat that belonged to her grandmother -- her new lucky charm. Big mean Belinda at school teases her for it, calling her "Ella the Elegant Elephant." But Ella's brave enough to hold on to her hat, and in the end, the hat (and her heart) save the day.

With warm, rich pictures and a charming main character, ELLA is sure to be a new favorite.

## Ella the Elegant Elephant Details

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ISBN : 9780439627924

Author : Carmela D'Amico , Steve D'Amico (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Ella the Elegant Elephant for online ebook

### Diana Thomsen says

This book did not resonate with me. I started out liking it well enough (I really like the mother every time she shows up!), but I didn't find the whole incident at the school to work for me. Or maybe I'm just tired of reading books about bullies who turn out to be just misunderstood...

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### Leyla says

Love it! Thank you Mrs Rhodes!!

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### Alison Whiteman says

What a sweet story about being bullied for being different and then the classroom comes together to appreciate diversity, which in this story, means wearing different hats. I only wish this consistently worked. One day at a time, right, America?

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### Shelley says

#### **My Rating:**

4 stars!

#### **Summary:**

Ella is new to town and she is a little anxious about going to school and making friends. To make Ella feel better, Ella's mom gives her grandma's big wide brimmed red hat with flowers. Ella loves the hat so much she wears it everyday! But when Ella arrives at school, she stands out like a sore thumb, because everyone else is wearing school uniforms. Ella's hat sets her apart from her classmates, and she becomes bullied and taunted, being called "Ella the Elegant Elephant!" Will Ella be brought down by Belinda Blue the bully or will she do what is right?

#### **Rationale:**

I Loved this book! <3 It is so adorable! This is a wonderful story for children who are bullied because they are a little different. It will also teach children who are bullied to not be brought down by the bully, to do what is right and not to bully back but instead to be kind and stay strong. I think a lot of children can relate to Ella, but also be inspired by her to stay strong.

Besides the story, the artwork is very cute. The medium appears to be crayons or maybe chalk. There is a lot of bold outlining and soft tones and shading. I also love how the characters have little noses and dots for eyes which give them a sweet and innocent appearance.

And there's one more thing I forgot to mention as to why I am biased towards this book...

I LOVE ELEPHANTS!

### **Viviane Elbee says**

This is a longer picture book, but fans of elephants, fancy hats and a fun dose of magic would probably enjoy this book. Kids liked it.

It can also be used to discuss going to a new school, helping others, making friends and dangerous actions.

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### **Lindsey LaMonica says**

"Ella the Elegant Elephant" written and illustrated by Carmela and Steven D'Amico is a great story for younger kids, I would say Kindergarten/First grade maybe even preschool. Ella and her family are living somewhere in the Indian Ocean on Elephant Island. Ella is nervous about soon starting at her new school. But when she finds her grandma's lucky big, red hat she can not wait. However, once starting at school no one likes Ella's hat as much as Ella loves it. You're gonna have to read what happens but after waking up late one day and running to school, only to still be late, Ella finds all her classmates, including Belinda the bully, wearing big hats just like Ella's! This book is great to show children about being an outsider and not fitting in because of something you love. It shows children to stick up for themselves and in the end everything will probably be out. I loved the pictures throughout the story. Many take up the whole spread, while there are some pictures that are just cut outs on the page. I first picture up this book because I thought the cover of little Ella was cute, and boy am I glad I read it! Super cute story for younger kids!!

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### **Bookworm's Nemesis says**

4.5 stars. Ella lives in a new place and starts a new school were she meets a bully. I really enjoyed reading this book to my daughter and what Ella does.

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### **Jessie Wilkens says**

Normally I would not add a children's book (normally I wouldn't read a children's book) but this was very cute and I want to remember it. This strikes me as something that would have been one of my favorites as a child.

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### **Nick Yee says**

Beautiful narrative that hooked my focus

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### **7709julia says**

THIS BOOK IS MY CHILDHOOD. I found it on my shelf the other day, and immediately fell in love. It is about the struggles of ella, who goes to a new school and gets made fun of for her silly hat. It is a tale of grief, fitting in, being an outsider, and finally, acceptance. I highly recommend this book to anyone with a heart.

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## **Carmen says**

*Somewhere in the great, wide Indian Ocean lie the Elephant Islands, hidden by a fog so thick that no human being has ever found them.*

I find this highly doubtful. Also, this country looks like Turkey. Yeah, a lot like Turkey.

Turkey:

Elephant Islands:

Ella is nervous because she is the new kid.

*So her mother suggested that she do something constructive, but Ella didn't know what.*

*"Well, there's still quite a bit of unpacking to do. Why don't you give me a hand while we wait for these cookies to cool?"*

Her mom's a baker. ANYWAY, this is a typical mom thing to say. Oh, why don't you do this boring thing instead of worrying?

Of course, Ella isn't thrilled. But while helping her mother unpack, she finds a hat. The hat is addressed to her from her (dead) grandma. Her mom tells her that this big, church-lady hat (my description) was grandma's 'lucky hat.'

Ella loves it and decides to wear it to school. Everyone at school dresses in a uniform that looks exactly like a Russian soldier.

Second to the left.

It's very bizarre. Like combining Turkey with Soviet Russia and adding elephants. Also, it looks like an overly warm outfit to be wearing on an island in the Indian Ocean. They even have little caps.

*The teacher asked if she wouldn't mind sitting in a desk in the back row, so she wouldn't block the other student's view of the chalkboard.*

This sounds like a reasonable request.

But then a bully named Belinda Blue starts picking on Ella. She trips her and is scolded by the teacher.

*"Belinda Blue!" scolded Miss Briggs. "I saw that! Shame on you!"*

*Belinda slumped down in her seat.*

*"I didn't mean to," she said.*

\*Carmen scoffs\* Yeah, right.

The bullying doesn't end there. Ella sits alone on the playground, and no one approaches her to play. But Belinda and her two cronies do approach her to make fun of her hat.

*"That is a dumb hat. It doesn't even match your uniform."*

*"Yeah," said Belinda's friend, Tiki, pushing up her glasses. "But maybe she thinks she looks elegant in it."*

*Belinda shouted, "I know! Let's call her Ella the Elegant."*

*"Yeah!" Tiki laughed. "Ella the Elegant Elephant!"*

Um... that's not really an insult. But it feels like one to poor Ella.

When Ella gets home and tells her mom about her horrible day, the mom says,

*"My dearest Ella, things will get better, I promise."*

Lies, filthy lies. Also, don't make promises you can't keep!

Thus far this book has been a very accurate portrayal of bullying.

The bullying continues the next day as Belinda throws a ball at Ella's head and then invites her to play with her.

*Ella didn't want to play ball with Belinda, but she was afraid if she didn't, she'd get teased even more.*

But Belinda throws the ball onto the high safety wall and tells Ella to go get it. Ella protests, saying it's against the rules and dangerous.

*Belinda rolled her eyes. "No it's not dangerous. Just climb right up and throw it down. What could be more simple?"*

Ella responds beautifully.

*"Well, if it's so simple," said Ella, "why don't YOU do it?"*

*Tiki and the others turned and looked at Belinda.*

*"Fine, I will." Belinda glared at Ella. "But you flunked the test."*

This is amazing accuracy in re: bullying.

ANYWAY. Belinda climbs up to get the ball, starts clowning around on the wall and slips. Now she's crying and no one is doing anything, so Ella steps forward like a woman (read: boss!) and says she'll help. But Belinda's so heavy she pulls both of them over the edge.

In a very unlikely turn of events, (view spoiler)

THE END.

We assume the bullying stops.

Tl;dr - So. Despite being about an elephant in Turkey masquerading as communist Russia, this book is actually a pretty realistic portrayal of bullying. Even better, it is not preachy or trite. I would say it is an excellent book to read to children. It's not lame like most bullying books are. The illustrations are cute.

Ages 4-6.

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### **Anna says**

What a cute book! The illustrations are so darn adorable. I love Ella the elegant elephant so much! She's shy, brave, and so cute.

Short summary about the story: [INCLUDES SPOILERS]

This is about a little cute elephant named Ella who moved into a new area and was nervous about going to a new school because she wasn't sure if the other elephants would like her and if she would make any friends. She wore this beautiful hat that she got from her grandma, but was made fun of because of how different the hat was compared to the other hats all the other elephants wore. Then an incident happened, Ella tried to help, her hat saved the day, and in the end everyone wore all kinds of hats to school and everybody loved Ella.

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### **Melanie says**

Ella the elephant is nervous about starting a new school. When she finds that her grandmother has sent her her lucky hat, she feels slightly better. But when she gets to school she quickly learns that a neat hat does not always guarantee friends. One of Ella's classmates immediately begins to tease her. When Ella is challenged to retrieve a ball off of a high safety wall, she challenges the other student right back. The other child accepts and up the wall she goes...only to find herself stuck. While some classmates run for help and some stand there not sure what to do, Ella climbs right up that wall to help. But the weight of two elephants is too much and they both go toppling over the wall. Good thing Ella has her good luck hat on. It opens as a parachute and saves them both! The next day at school the whole class shows Ella their appreciation by wearing beautiful hats!

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### **Pam says**

Ella's family moves to a new place. While unpacking, Ella found a wonderful hat that was her grandmother's. She wears it on the first day of 1st grade and gets picked on by the largest girl in her class. Ella saves the day when the class bully gets in trouble and she rescues her.

Use to talk about feelings in new places and accepting those who like/wear things different than we expect.

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### **Kathryn says**

I fell in love with the cover art! SO CUTE!!!! It reminds me a bit of Joan Walsh Anglund's art elephant-style ;-> The illustrations are quite fun throughout. The story is a good one for kids new to school, or a new school, in that it encourages one to maintain their personality and goodness in the face of bullies and against the threat of "not fitting in." Alas, the writing style was really not all that special for me, but it was still a pleasant book all told.

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