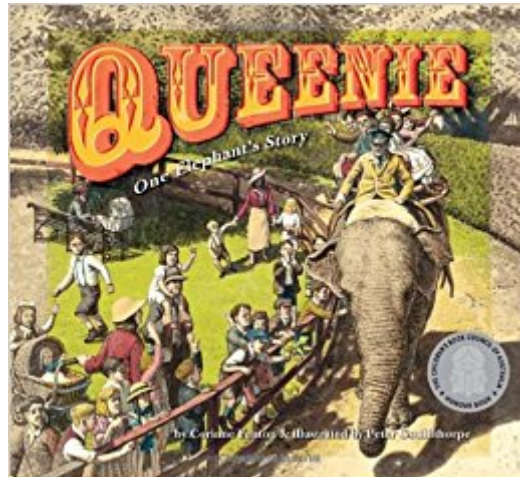




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Queenie: One Elephant's Story



Synopsis

The true story of one of the most famous elephants of all time: Queenie, the gentle Indian elephant. Evoking a time when elephants were giving rides in zoos all around the world, the true story of Queenie follows her from her birth in an Indian jungle to Australia's Melbourne Zoo, where she lived for more than forty years, giving rides to children. Thousands of kids loved Queenie, celebrated her birthday, and sent her letters. But in an event still not fully understood, Queenie crushed one of her keepers in late 1944. Was she mistreated or bored? Was it an accident? No one knows, but zoos have changed since Queenie's time. Plainspoken and honest, this gentle account shows the good, the bad, and the evolution of zoo philosophy. Queenie's story is a thought-provoking steppingstone for discussion of a complex, difficult topic.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 24 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (June 11, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763663751

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Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.4 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,252,431 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Australia & Oceania #413 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Australia & Oceania #1043 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Elephants

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 1-3 As a baby elephant, Queenie was stolen from her mother in India and transported to the Melbourne Zoo. At the age of nine, she was trained to carry passengers on her back for almost 40 years. Intelligent and well loved, Queenie was the main attraction at the zoo and an icon in Melbourne until she crushed one of her keepers in 1944. Whether it was an accident or not will

never be known, but the tragedy, paired with a wartime food shortage, marked the end for Queenie, who was put to sleep in the summer of 1945. The truth is hard, and this historical tale is filled with sadness. The final spread introduces the natural habitat now provided for elephants at Melbourne Zoo and invites readers to remember Queenie in happier times in her native India. Hauntingly beautiful illustrations capture the time period and the affection and admiration bestowed upon her. Though the plight of decades of zoo animals can be found here, this is also a story about the love for one memorable animal. This title would best be shared with a caring adult with plenty of conversation to follow.

— Heather Acerro, Rochester Public Library, MN

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All the tenderness, respect and fascination that people feel for zoo animals—and some of the cruelty that people inflict, too—resides in the pages of Queenie, a lovely, elegiac picture book... Peter Gouldthorpe's illustrations of Queenie's story are deceptively powerful...

— Wall Street Journal

QUEENIE is a gorgeously illustrated children's book that tells the story of Queenie, an Asian elephant that was captured in the wild and brought to the Royal Melbourne Zoo in Melbourne, Australia. She arrived at the zoo in 1902 and almost immediately was put into use giving elephant rides. She was one of the most popular attractions at the zoo for over forty years. Most people loved Queenie, but some boys used to tease her. Queenie was no fool and eventually got the boys back. In 1944 there was a probable accident and Queenie killed one of her keepers. She was suspended from giving rides and due to the food shortage because of World War II, Queenie was put to sleep. The book ends by illustrating how zoos and the habitats for elephants have changed at the Melbourne Zoo. Although QUEENIE can be read as an examination of how poor zoo conditions were a century ago, the book is really a long love letter to one very memorable animal. The illustrations in the book are beautiful and are done in a style reminiscent of the photographs and postcards from the time period. Overall, QUEENIE is a beautifully illustrated, but sad children's book about one unforgettable animal, Queenie the Elephant.

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