



Ella

Bill Peet

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Ella the elephant thinks of herself as a famous circus star, but gets a lesson in humility when a mean farmer puts her to work.

Ella Details

Date : Published October 11th 1978 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published December 1st 1964)

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Author : Bill Peet

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From Reader Review Ella for online ebook

Uriah says

As with all Bill Peet's books, there is a strong moral story. Ella learns to get over herself and appreciate others.

Johannes Kristian says

MCL.

A farmer had a gun to make the circus elephant called Ella do the plowing and a lot of his own jobs. Why didn't he use some oxen?

Captherine ♡ says

suddenly i really like elephants

Uh, so, yes: the sketchy cartoon style in this is super adorable. The artist did an excellent job of conveying character/the nature of characters through simple, rough lines. The hound was so *dog*.

Ella grows as a character throughout, but still retains plenty of her original character, making her very lovable indeed. this whole book agsahsj

off to draw elephants now

Kathy says

Did I read this as a kid? I'm thinking I must have since it was written in 1964. Great book to teach kids to work hard and do their share.

Shelley says

Cute. Rhymed. Lesson: don't be spoiled. Learn the value of work.

Joe says

This is Bill Peet at his (almost) best -- and he's always good. Ella the elephant is a spoiled, conceited circus elephant who runs away from her pampered life in the circus and becomes very sorry that she did. To an

adult, the story is utterly predictable which is why I withhold one star, but of course to a six-year-old the story is wonderful. The more I read of Bill Peet's books (and I'm up to about 20 by now), the more I appreciate his drawing style: he makes it look easy, and yet it takes great skill to give animals and landscapes such color and just the right details with shades of darkness because there's always a dark side in a Bill Peet story. Here the dark side is being put to work on a farm by a cruel farmer. All ends well, of course.

Peet's poetry isn't his strong point -- he's better at straight narrative. I winced at a few lines such as:

Then her robe was sent out to be dry-cleaned and pressed
And also they fluff-dried her ostrich-plume crest

but it's for six-year-olds, for Pete's sake, so as an adult reader I can accept it as an element of Peet's innate (and delightful) silliness. I simply love how he draws landscapes and old barns, and we get at least one two-page spread here.

Robin says

A spoiled elephant learns a lesson after she runs away from the circus

Jeremy says

Ella is an Ella-phant. Get it? Ella learns a good lesson the hard way. I joked with Kate that we should put her to work in a similar way until she learned to be more grateful.

Maki says

A good story about being too proud and to appreciate what you have. Helping others makes you feel happy.

Tim says

A classic, rhyming, down-to-earth Bill Peet story. As usual, the main character learns a lesson in virtue - this time, it's Ella the proud circus elephant who needs to live a year on a farm to learn how spoiled she was.

momma.hailey says

Bill Peet at his best! We recently discovered this author and have enjoyed the moral aspects to his story along with the beautiful illustrations. Is it just me or did children's books like this from decades past actually have length and substance to their story? These are the books I love to read aloud to my 5 small children!

