



# The Elephant's Tale

*Lauren St. John*

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## **The Elephant's Tale** Lauren St. John

When Martine and her grandmother discover that they might lose their game reserve, Sawubona, because of a clause in her grandfather's will, Martine and her best friend, Ben, decide to take matters into their own hands. After Martine hears a prophecy that tells her: "The elephants will lead you to the truth," Martine and Ben stow away in an airplane, get stuck in the desert, and help a group of elephants escape from a horrible prison. Along the way, Martine learns the truth about Sawubona, as well as the dramatic truth about her gift with animals and where it will take her in her life . . .

## **The Elephant's Tale Details**

Date : Published August 6th 2009 by Orion (first published January 1st 2009)

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Author : Lauren St. John

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# From Reader Review The Elephant's Tale for online ebook

## Emily says

So far this book is really good, there's a really evil guy who's coming to take over the game reserve and now Gwen is going to England to try to find a will that will save the reserve. This book is a must read, there is so much excitement and it's a big page turner!

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## Jasper says

I have recently read The Elephant's Tale by Lauren St. John. In the book, Martine and her best friend embark on a journey to save their home at Sawubona Game reserve. As the story goes on they make friends and travel to Damaraland. They also find a dark secret about a "friend".

I really liked this book. This book is probably the second favourite book I have ever read. I really enjoyed the book all the way through. Lauren really keeps you on the edge your chair. She always keeps you reading the book and makes you not want to put the book down.

I would recommend this book to all ages. The book is very exciting and suitable for all. I think others would really enjoy the fact that it is so easy to read and how exciting it is. I hope many others enjoy this book the same as I did. I will be reading the last couple of books in the series next. I love the books love the stories.

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## Nha-Thi says

This book teaches that if you want to find out something so bad that it could save you, your home etc, you have to go to high limits to find the truth, that even includes leaving and going to a place far from your home

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## Laura says

This was a really good conclusion to the series. Martine and Ben travel to yet another country in Africa which gives St John another opportunity to go into depth with the impressive descriptions of the landscapes. I enjoyed all of the facts about elephants that were expertly weaved into the story so you do not quite realise that you are learning while reading the story.

What was slightly different about this book was that it was not immediately obvious what was going to happen within the story (other than the fact that they would manage to save the reserve). It was also not quite as obvious who the typical bad guy was. Although you dislike Reuben James for the start, what is different in this book for the others in the series is that he is not the main bad guy, there are more layers to the plot and other characters involved. This makes the story a bit more realistic as it is more complex than simply bad versus good.

Martine returns to the memory cave at several points throughout the series. (view spoiler)

This book was a good finish by St John and receives three stars.

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## **Anu says**

Jännittävä oli tämäkin ja tähän sarja sitten päättyy. Yksi epätoivoinen lukija kyllä pyysi minua kirjoittamaan kirjailijalle ja pyytämään, että sarjaan kirjoitettaisiin jatkoa. Googlasimme nimittäin yhdessä kirjailijan tuotantoa ja näyttää siltä, että tällä kertaa emme voi syyttää kustantajaa kääntämisen lopettamisesta ;).

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## **Katie Drummond says**

I absolutely LOVE Lauren St. John! She is an amazing author, and whenever my dad asks me if he wants me to get books from the UK, I always say: 'ANYTHING LAUREN ST. JOHN!!' This is yet again another great book! This is literally one of the best books I've read in AGES!

I really love all of the characters in this book, especially the okapi. (haha)

To be honest, I'm jealous of Martine, as she lives on a game reserve, with 2 loyal BFFs (a white girrafe ((SO JEALOUS)) and a boy her age)

Always wanted to go to Africa, and am going this year! SO EXCITED. Flying on my birthday, and these books help me get a feel of what it is like!

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## **Elizabeth Blackwell says**

The Elephant's Tale by:Lauren St. John, is a amazing tale about a girl who can heal animals! And saves an elephant herd from pochers. Even risks her own life and her friend'sto save the animalshe loves in her home of South Africa!

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## **Vicki says**

The fourth and possibly final book in this wonderful series by Lauren St. John about a young girl with special powers to heal living on a wildlife reserve in South Africa. This one sees her and her best friend Ben, stealing away to Namibia to try to prevent an unscrupulous man from stealing her beloved home, Sawubono, out from under her and her feisty grandmother. Action packed.

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## **Mia Devereaux says**

I started this series when I was 10 years old and I will never get tired of it.

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## **Aly says**

St John does it again. This time, Martine's journey leads her to Namibia, where she must be persistent to save the elephants. Ben, her best friend, is with her along the way as they encounter a few "bad guys" that want to ruin everything that is beautiful about Namibia.

great story, perfect pacing, realistic dialogue, plenty of cultural additions, moving and realistic. st john is really one of the best authors for this age group around!!!! highly suggest this one, especially for kids 8 and up.

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## **Tina Peterson says**

The Elephant's Tale has a powerful message about endangered animals and the cruelty of poachers and greed. Beginning with the arrival of Reuben James, Martine has a nagging feeling that he is a bad man up to no good and she's certain of it when after he leaves she discovers that he has come with a will that he says her Grandfather signed before he died leaving him the sole beneficiary of the preserve. Giving almost 12 year old Martine and her Grandmother 2 weeks to pack and say goodbye to their home he leaves the preserve.

The tale begins at this point. The next day a row of bulldozers and other machines turn up with a court order to start demolition of the preserve so the White Giraffe Safari Park can be built. The story begins with a bang and the emotion and action in the book start building.

When I requested The Elephant's Tale I didn't realize that mysticism and animalism was throughout the book so I would suggest you read parts (or all) of the book and be prepared to answer questions and talk it over with your kids. Some of you may not be concerned about this but for those of you who will be I'm giving you a heads up. One of the characters in the book is a woman named Grace, who is a local sangoma (healer), who divines Martine's future and tells her that elephants will be a part of her quest - she is also the one training Martine in healing.

This book provides a good opportunity to study conservation, extinction of our animals and how we can help the planet by taking care of it. It's also a good time to talk about greed and selfishness and the character traits of honesty, responsibility and kindness (tips here).

I would personally suggest these books be read as a family or with a parent of kids 8-11 due to some of the subject matter.

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## **Cydney Warrington says**

I finished The Elephant's Tale this morning, I got up and first thing I did was get the book out and read the last 4 chapters and didn't stop reading until I finished. But I need Lauren St John to write another, please

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## **Jon Snow says**

This series was pretty good. I must say, the ending of this one was abrupt though. It just kind of happened and the book was over. However I love St. John's descriptions of animals, and I love Khan (and Jemmy)

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## **Gail says**

This book is the fourth in the series by Lauren St. John. I loved the first one, *The White Giraffe*. I was hooked by the thought of someone having a connection to animals and there seemed to be a little bit of magic or mystique to the story. It was sad to think that this young girl would lose her parents and then go live with a grandmother that seems a little cold, but the story line works for the premise that this young girl has felt enough pain and loss that she would be emotionally practiced enough to care so much for the animals on their refuge. If she hadn't experienced the loss, perhaps she wouldn't be searching for something to fill the void she was feeling. The next two books were good as well as *The Elephant's Tale*. This story brings about a new crisis. A wealthy businessman has claimed that he will be taking their home and wildlife refuge from them because of a deal he made with her grandfather. Martine goes to her place where she can see messages for her on the walls with Grace and discovers what she must do to find answers to help save their home. She follows what she thinks is her path by hiding on a small plane. Ben goes with her and when the plane touches down, they get off. Unfortunately, the plane leaves them on a desert and they find themselves with little water or food. A boy named Gift finds them and helps them back to safety. He has lost his father who was known to be an elephant whisperer. The mystery of his father disappearing and the mystery of Martine trying to find something about the man who is taking away their home starts to blend. Ben and Martine stumble upon the Oasis that is being built. They find the elephant whisperer and some elephants that have been held captive. Martine helps an elephant and they are successful in saving the elephants. In the end, things work out. The story was exciting and enjoyable to read. Children in 4th grade and up would enjoy this book.

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## **Sreedha Vemuri says**

Martine and her grandmother feel that they might lose their game reserve, Sawubona, because of a clause in her grandfather's will. Martine(car driver) hears a prophecy that tells her: "The elephants will lead you to the truth," Martine and Ben stow away in an airplane, get stuck in the desert, and help a group of elephants escape from a horrible prison. Along the way, Martine learns the truth about Sawubona, and the dramatic truth about her mysterious powers with animals and where it will take her in her life

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## **Tanja says**

Even though the fourth book in this series around Martine, a child who has special powers to heal animals, follows a similar pattern as the previous titles, it was still a real pleasure to read the book. I asked myself what attracted me still so much to these books. I guess it is mainly the many interesting facts about Southern Africa, its countries, peoples and animals, that are gently woven into each of the stories, which really keep me reading. In the first book it was all about South Africa and giraffes; the second book focused on Mozambique and dolphins; the third book on Zimbabwe and leopards; and this fourth book gave me a

chance to learn about Namibia and elephants. Did you, by the way, know that elephants can swim up to 300 miles? So I very much hope that Lauren St. John will keep on writing and I will get a chance to learn more about Southern Africa from her books.

(I read the Kindle version and was impressed by the good quality of the illustrations - however, there were too many typing issues for my liking, especially the repetition of sentences or parts of sentence.)

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## Jody says

I have thoroughly enjoyed this entire series and am saddened that it has ended. Of the four books in this series, the second is the only one that I didn't really care for that much.

The Elephant's Tale is a stunning conclusion for this series, even though I feel that it continue with more adventures for Martine and Ben, as hinted at in the book it's self. The message in this book, as well as the other three, is wonderful and meaningful. The love of nature and wildlife that the two leads demonstarte over and over again is remarakable and hartwarming.

If you're willing to sit back and let your imagination go, to believe that an 11 year old boy and girl can affect so much in the lives of others, nature, and wildlife, you'll enjoy this books. They are an adventure that a child of any age will enjoy taking.

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## τλι?λ says

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## Lara says

I think this is my least favorite of the four books in this series, but I still really enjoyed it and for the most part like where St. John left things with Martine and Ben and Sawubona. Definitely a very fun series for

young animal lovers!

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**Norah says**

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