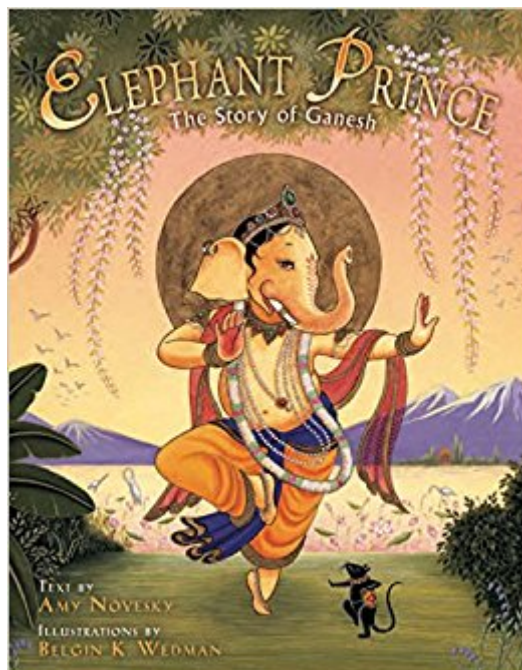


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Elephant Prince: The Story Of Ganesh



Synopsis

Elephant-headed and big-bellied, mischievous and sweet, the god Ganesh is one of the most familiar faces in the world. But why does he have the head of an elephant? Set in the Himalayas in a time of gods and goddesses, *Elephant Prince* tells the story of a remarkable bond between a mother and her son, a remorseful god, a generous elephant and the boy who became Ganesh. Belgin K. Wedman's jewel-toned illustrations, reminiscent of classical Indian miniatures, complement this poetic story of one of the most beloved gods of all.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #376,008 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Hinduism](#) #5 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Hindu](#) #16 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Eastern](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 4

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 4 - Novesky retells the less-popular but authentic version of how the Hindu god Ganesh came to have the head of an elephant. Basing her text on the *Brahma Vaivarta Purana*, she recounts how the lovely goddess Parvati fell in love with the blue-skinned god, Shiva, and longed to have his child. After a year, a baby is born, but when the gods come to celebrate, Parvati insists that the god Shani look upon her son, forgetting that whatever he looks upon is destroyed. When the baby's head turns to ash, the god Vishnu restores him to life by replacing the head with that of an elephant. Parvati tells the story to the *Elephant Prince* as he sits on her lap, and the constancy of her love and affection is captured beautifully in both text and illustrations. Wedman's watercolor, gouache, and gold-leaf illustrations have a shimmering loveliness and are replete with charming details. Harish Johari and Vatsala Sperling's *How Ganesh Got His Elephant Head* (Bear Cub, 2003)

is based on the other version of this tale, in which Parvati creates Ganesh herself to guard her privacy, and its lengthier narrative is more suited to older readers. Elephant Prince is a welcome addition to folklore shelves. - Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreS-Gr. 2. Glittering gouache paintings reminiscent of classic Indian miniatures illustrate this retelling of a Hindu myth about how the god Ganesh was born and acquired his elephant head. Novesky's straightforward text is accessible and well-paced for read-alouds. But it's the shimmering artwork that will really attract attention. Working in the saturated palette of gemstones and tropical flowers, Wedman paints exquisitely detailed scenes set in lush gardens, forests, and palaces, which make the story's magical, dramatic shape-shifting and cast of gods and mortals feel close and real. A fine addition to mythology and religion shelves. For another take on the myth, suggest Harish Johari and Vatsala Sperling's *How Ganesh Got His Elephant Head* (2003). Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Bought this as part of the Build Your Library kindergarten curriculum. Wonderful book for any home library!

Absolutely beautifully illustrated and gentler story of how Ganesha obtained his elephant head. Contrary to the better known story where Shiva cuts off the head of Ganesha while he is guarding his mother's bath, this story sees the loss of the baby's head as an accident, when Lord Shani looks at the baby at Parvati's insistence and because of the Lord's power the baby's head disintegrates. To the rescue Lord Vishnu who brings the head of an elephant that sacrificed himself so that the child might live. What a story!

Basically - , "What the heck just happened?" Was my reaction after reading this book. If you know anything about the story of Lord Ganesha - this tale will leave you scratching your head. It actually says, "Lord Shiva was not ready for kids." Huh? What is he, an investment banker working overtime to pull in his first million? The author claims that it is a new telling based on a different version of the Ganesha myth. However, anyone who is familiar with the tale will just be left scratching their heads. It will be left high on a shelf never to be read again. As a non-Hindu, I didn't mind the new version of the tale, but that is just me - but it is not my culture, so why would it bother me if it is new. It is like picking up a bible story told in an "Apocrypha" version - not familiar but non-Christians would not

know the difference. The author tries to make it more gentle by suggesting that Ganesha lost his original head in a tragic accident rather than his father cutting it off. Again, huh? Mythology can seem violent, but most of the time we are just used to the stories. There is no need to soften ancient stories to something else and to reduce it to a strange retelling, to fit modern sensibilities.

Beautiful pictures, but the story varies from the traditional story that most of us know. I suppose it's scary enough in this version for some very young children if their parents don't explain the background of the story before they read it to them, if the child isn't old enough to read. The pictures alone are worth the price.

Immediately rocketed to the top of my 5-year old's favorite book list. Months later, it is still a frequent bedtime story request. Beautiful illustrations make it interesting for adults, also.

Story is not the best but the illustrations are wonderful. Almost a mixture of European and Indian art that is breathtaking. The way Ganesh is drawn is in my opinion the best out of all the characters. I would recommend it not just for the illustrations.

Fantastic Book - my 5,5 year old daughter loves it - the illustrations are amazing and very authentic. This book helps to lay out a great foundation for learning about Hindu culture.

This is a lovely book that really gets down and tells the story. One thing is this is the watered down version of the story and not exactly the version I grew up with but a valid version. In this version his head just denigrated from a blessing versus getting cut off by his father. Otherwise a good book.

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