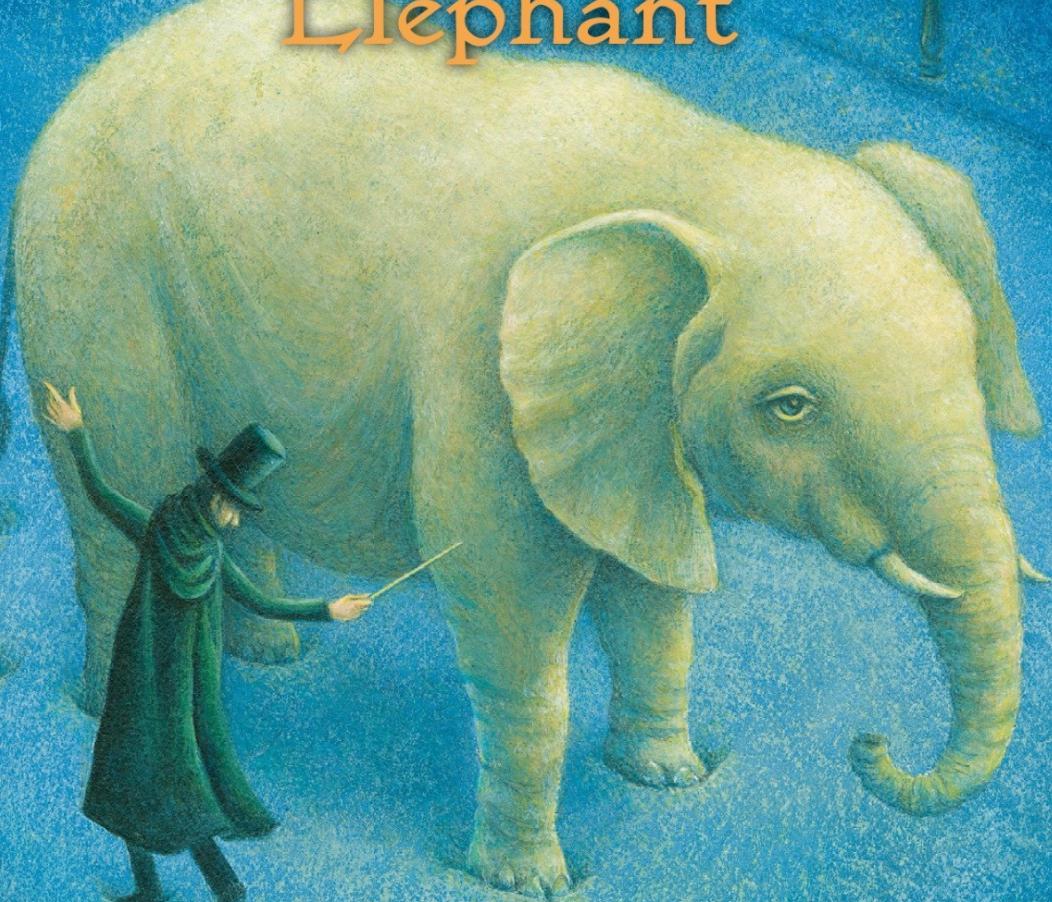


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Kate DiCamillo

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
KATE DiCAMILLO

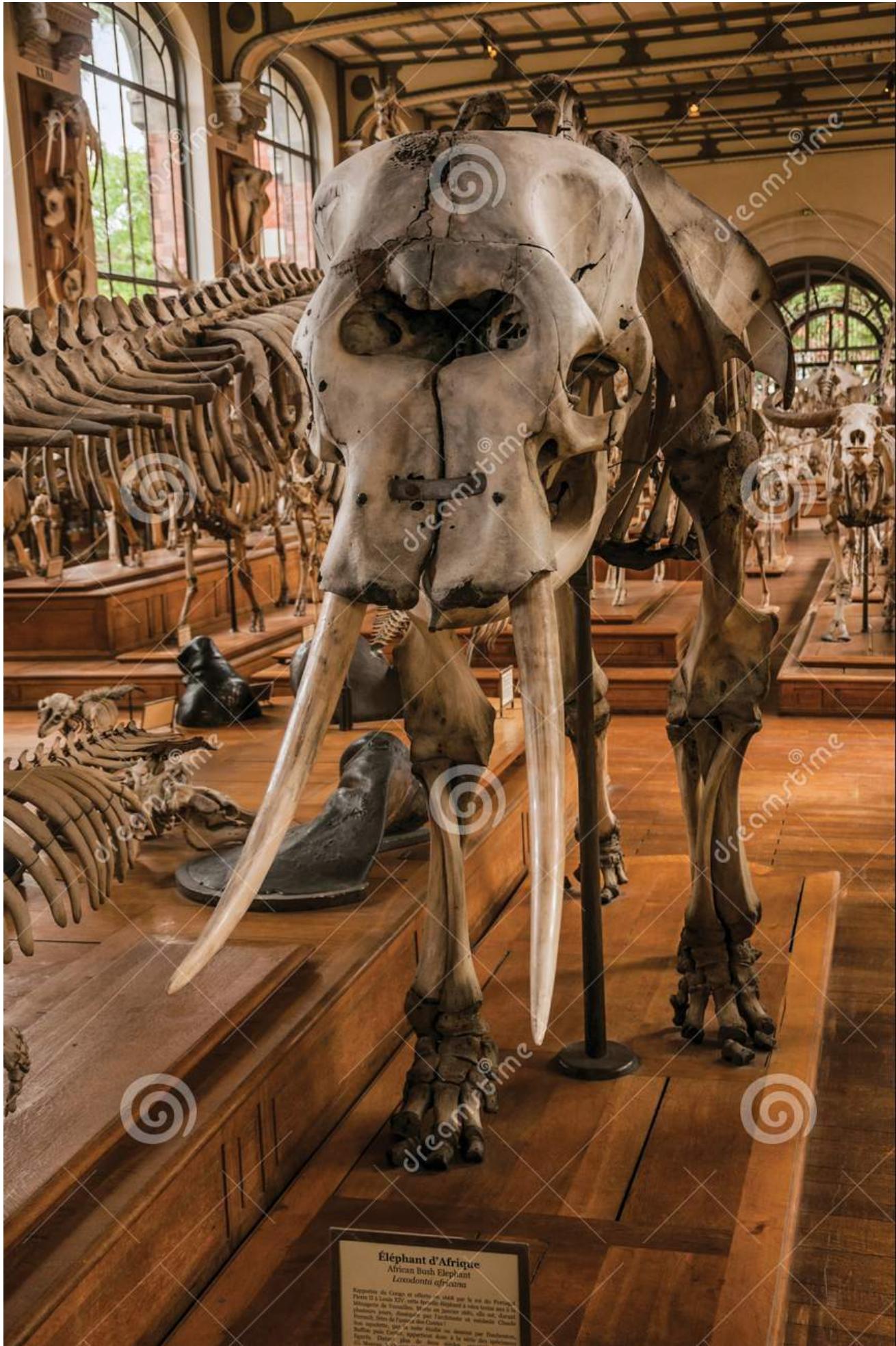
The Magician's
Elephant



ILLUSTRATED BY YOKO TANAKA

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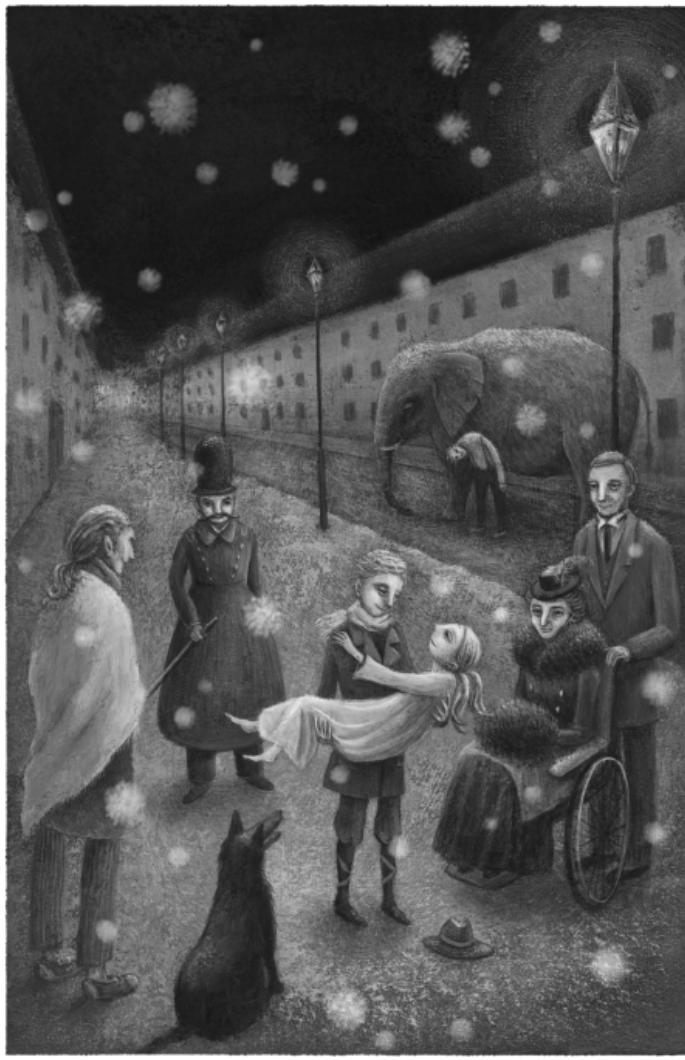
Chapter Seventeen



- It was the snow that woke the dog.
 - He lifted his head. He sniffed.
- Snow, yes.
 - But there was another smell, the scent of something wild and large.
- **IDDO** got to his feet.
 - He stood at attention, his tail quivering.
 - He barked.
 - And then he barked again louder.
- “Shhh,” said **TOMAS**.
 - But the dog would not be silenced.
- Something incredible was approaching.
 - He knew it, absolutely, to be true.
 - Something wonderful was going to happen, and he would be the one to announce it. He barked and barked and barked.
- **He worked with the whole of his heart to deliver the message.**
 - **IDDO** barked.

- Upstairs, in the dorm room of the **ORPHANAGE OF THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL LIGHT**,
 - **ADELE** heard the dog barking.
- She got out of bed and walked to the window
 - and looked out and saw the snow dancing and twirling and spinning in the light of the street lamp.
- “Snow,” she said,
 - “just like in the dream.” She leaned her elbows on the windowsill and looked out at the whitening world.
- And then,
 - through the curtain of falling snow,
- **ADELE** saw the elephant.
 - She was walking down the street.
 - She was following a boy.
 - There was a policeman and a man pushing a woman in a wheelchair and a small man who was bent sideways. And the beggar was there with them, and so was the black dog.
- “Oh,” said **ADELE**.
 - She did not doubt her eyes. She did not wonder if she was dreaming.
 - She simply turned from the window and ran in her bare feet down the dark stairway and into the great room and from there into the hallway and past the sleeping **Sister MARIE**.
- She threw wide the door to the orphanage.
- “Here!”
 - she shouted.
- “Here I am!”
- The black dog came running toward her through the snow.
 - He danced circles around her, barking, barking, barking.
- It was as if he were saying,
 - “Here you are at last. We have been waiting for you. And here, at last, you are.”
- “Yes,” said **ADELE** to the dog, “here I am.”

- The draft from the open door woke **Sister MARIE**.
- “The door is unlocked!”
 - she shouted.
- “The door is always and forever unlocked. You must simply knock.”
- When she was fully awake,
 - **Sister MARIE** saw that the door was, in fact, wide open and that beyond the door, in the darkness, snow was falling.
- She got up from her chair and went to pull the door closed and saw that there was an elephant in the street.
- “Preserve us,” said **Sister MARIE**.
- And then she saw **ADELE** standing in the snow, in her nightgown and with no shoes on her feet.
- “**ADELE!**!”
 - **Sister MARIE** shouted.
 - “**ADELE!**”
- But it was not **ADELE** who turned to look at her.
 - It was a boy with a hat in his hands.
- “**ADELE?**” he said.
 - He spoke the name as if it were a question and an answer both, and his face was alight with wonder.
- The whole of him, in fact, shone like one of the bright stars from **Sister MARIE**’s dream.
 - He picked her up because it was snowing and it was cold and her feet were bare and because he had promised their mother long ago that he would always take care of her.
- “**ADELE.**” he said. “**ADELE.**”
 - “Who are you?” she said.
 - “I am your brother.”
 - “My brother?”
 - “Yes.”
 - She smiled at him,
 - a sweet smile of disbelief that turned suddenly to belief and then to joy.
 - “My brother,” she said.
 - “What is your name?”
 - “**PETER.**”
 - “**PETER,**” she said. And then again,
 - “**PETER. PETER.** And you brought the elephant.”



- “Yes,” said **PETER**.
 - I brought her.
 - Or she brought me,
 - but in any case, it is all the same and just as the fortuneteller said.”

- He laughed and turned.

◦ “**LEO MATIENNE**,” he shouted, “this is my sister!”

- “I know,” said **LEO MATIENNE**.
 - “I can see.”

- “Who is it?”
 - said **Madam LAVAUGHN**.
- “Who is she?”

◦ “The boy’s sister,” said **HANS ICKMAN**.

- “I don’t understand,” said **Madam LAVAUGHN**.

◦ “It’s the impossible,” said **HANS ICKMAN**.
◦ “The impossible has happened again.”

- **Sister MARIE** walked out through the open door of the **ORPHANAGE OF THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL LIGHT** and into the snowy street.

- She stood next to **LEO MATIENNE**.
 - “It is, after all, a wonderful thing to dream of an elephant,”
 - she said to **LEO**,
 - “and then to have the dream come true.”

◦ “Yes,” said **LEO MATIENNE**,
◦ “yes, it must be.”

- **BARTOK WHYNN**, who stood beside the nun and the policeman, opened his mouth to laugh and then found that he could not.
 - “I must —” he said. “I must —” But he did not finish the sentence.

- The elephant, meanwhile, stood in the falling snow and waited.

- It was **ADELE** who remembered her and said to her brother, “Surely the elephant must be cold.
 - Where is she going? Where are you taking her?”

◦ “Home,” said **PETER**.
◦ “We are taking her home.”