



2017

The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India

Ariel Woodbury

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Woodbury, Ariel (2017) "The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 7 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss7/8>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu.

Book Review

Title: The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India

Author: Marcia Williams

Reviewer: Ariel Woodbury

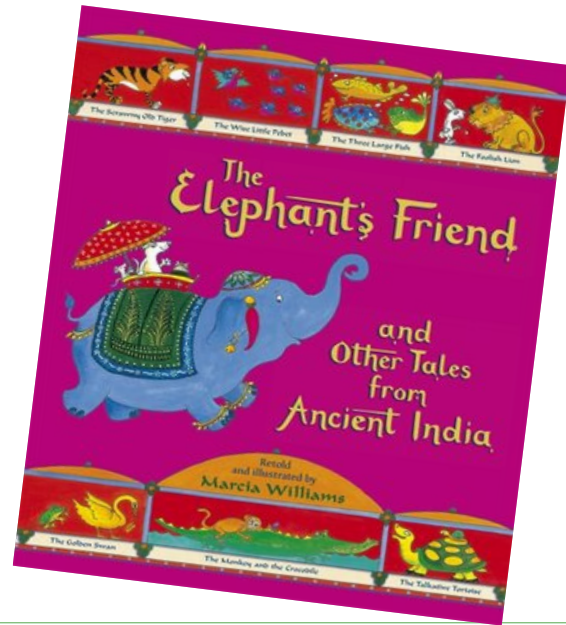
Publisher: Candlewick Press

Publication Year: 2012

Number of Pages: 40

Interest Level: Primary

Rating: Dependable



Review

Elephant's friend Dog is sold away and Elephant mourns until the king returns Dog to him. The scrawny tiger tricks a greedy man to cross the river for a gold bangle, but then eats him. The wise little pebet tricks the cat so that he won't eat her babies who are learning to fly. The fishermen catch two large fish who believe in fate, but the wise fish and the clever fish escape. The foolish lion is tricked into jumping down a well. The golden swan's kindness is repaid with greed. The crocodile is a disloyal friend and the monkey escapes by tricking him. The talkative tortoise cannot hold his tongue which causes him to fall to his death.

The eight folk tales in this book explore themes of friendship, greed, honor, and wisdom. Some of the morals these stories teach are that friendship is priceless, that we should be loyal friends, that it is foolish to leave your life in the hands of fate, that a beast is a beast, and that it is a virtue to know when to be silent. The book is laid out in comic book style panels. Each story is pretty short and the narration is clever and engaging. The illustrations are crude cartoons, but do have bright colors and will maintain the attention of children.

*Contains mild violence (many of the stories deal with characters being eaten, one story is specifically about eating a character's heart).