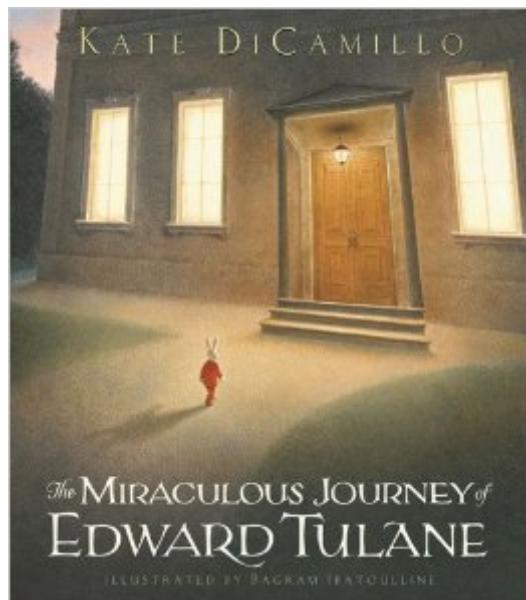


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# The Miraculous Journey Of Edward Tulane



## **Synopsis**

A timeless tale by the incomparable Kate DiCamillo, complete with stunning full-color plates by Bagram Ibatoulline, honors the enduring power of love. "Someone will come for you, but first you must open your heart. . . ." Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. The rabbit was very pleased with himself, and for good reason: he was owned by a girl named Abilene, who treated him with the utmost care and adored him completely. And then, one day, he was lost. Kate DiCamillo takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the top of a garbage heap to the fireside of a hoboes' camp, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. And along the way, we are shown a true miracle — that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 228 pages

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Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.8 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (1,099 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,239 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Rabbits #176 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #231 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

Kate Dicamillo has triumphed again, writing what I consider her best book yet, "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane." I read it in about an hour and sat crying over the last chapter. The tears were happy tears, though, and the ending very satisfying. The story revolves around the character of Edward Tulane, a vain china rabbit who is loved by his owner but feels no love in return. A

misadventure throws him out of his pampered life and into a path of a series of fascinating people, each one more lovely than the last. Edward's heart grows and grows until the question is not can Edward love, but can he love again after the depth of his heartbreak. DiCamillo has a pared down narrative style that is refreshing and thought-provoking. "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" may be a children's book, but it is never childish. The message about loving and being loved is one that is important for people of all ages.

I see a lot of the reviewers liked this book, but few of them commented on how they liked it for their kids. I know the review says 3-6 grade, but we got this as a gift and read it to our 6 year old. His reading level is quite high, so I was pleased with how the book was written. Her language, the way she puts a sentence together, is so lovely and beautiful. As soon as we'd finish one chapter, he'd be clamoring to start the next. He liked the book, although there were some parts he may not have understood completely. Fine, I accept that. But there were some parts that I thought were a little rough for him, and maybe would have been rough even for a 3-6 grader. Specifically the story line with the abused children struck me as too rough to read as a kids' book in our house. Not that we deny to the kids that there are bad people in this world, but the story line was too hopeless to explain. At the risk of writing a spoiler, let me say this: from the moment Edward starts his journey, each person's life that he touches is flawed, sometimes severely. And to this end, the happiness he brings into their lives is what is touching. But whereas Edward is redeemed by the end of the book, everyone else is still miserable, or in some cases, worse. So my final thought is if you like Kate DiCamillo's writing, read this book. It's wonderfully written, and it is, indeed a weeper. But be prepared that if you read it to kids, the dark parts may outweigh the light.

I have been a fan of Kate DiCamillo since the publication of her last book, *The Tale of Despereaux*. After reading that book I quickly read her back list and was even more impressed. In *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* we are given a glimpse of arrogance gone wild. The china doll is made to feel special and is loved so much by his owner that he can't conceive he holds any other position than the center of the universe. Then, in an unexpected event, Edward Tulane is thrust into the depths of despair and only thru the kind acts of others is he taught the meaning of love. His various handlers and owners each contribute to Edwards salvation in small ways. I found this story to be profoundly touching. I suspect that many grandparents such as myself will find themselves reading this story to our grandchildren. I certainly plan to do so at the earliest opportunity. Kate DiCamillo is truly a national treasure. I look forward to future stories and the development of her as a great

author.

If this book doesn't bring tears to your eyes, then perhaps you need to make a journey similar to Edward's. With her previous three books Kate DiCamillo had already proven to me, as a reader, that she is a spectacular author. With the attention my students pay to her writing, I can see, as a teacher, her tremendous skill and value to the world of books and reading. Hands down though, this story is her best yet. The plot is simple enough that my four year old sat entranced as we read the first 50 pages together tonight. It is compelling enough that I had to plow through the remaining 150 pages to get to the end. This is the kind of book that you clasp to your chest when you finish it and then place reverently on a shelf to await the next reading. It is the kind of book that you will treasure and recommend to others. Don't pass this book by because it sits in the children's section...this book is for everyone. There is an obvious reason that this book was released on Valentine's Day...the simple theme of love is what drives this story. As DiCamillo puts it: "If you have no intention of loving or being loved, then the whole journey is pointless." If you are open to falling in love with a china rabbit named Edward Tulane, then pick up this book at once. You will not be disappointed.

A book that must be approached with caution, but approach you should (ideally with your child in hand). As tempting as it might be to hand it off to a seven year-old, save it to read with an older child. Like other reviewers I read it to my middle-schooler. At times we almost couldn't bear to go on, but its story of loss, love and redemption is too rare in young adult fiction (so much better to read this than a Gossip Girls book!) We both choked up on several occasions, but it's important to teach children the cathartic power of books. Our family is a fan of "toys with souls" literature, having read Hitty and Rumer Godden and the Meanest Doll in the World. This is a book that moves in a different and challenging direction. Yes Edward is thoroughly unlikable for much of the book. But we learn that love is not easily won and is to be treasured. Best for an older child 9 and up and with adult guidance.

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