

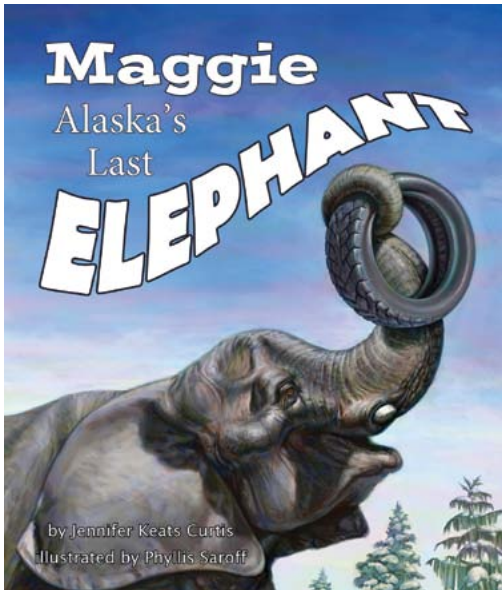
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An Alaskan Elephant Finds Her Forever Home

Author Jennifer Keats Curtis tells the true story of Maggie the last elephant at the Alaska Zoo.

Moving is difficult, but moving a sad elephant is even more difficult! On February 10th, author Jennifer Keats Curtis releases *Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant* the true story of how a lonely elephant left the Alaska Zoo to find her happy place with others of her kind.

Many years ago, elephants lived in Alaska. Two different kinds of elephants lived at the Alaska Zoo. Maggie, a small African elephant, whose herd was culled, was brought in as a companion for Annabelle, an Asian elephant, who had been acquired by the zoo because her owner was unable to care for her. Not long after Maggie came to Alaska, Annabelle passed and once again, the Alaska Zoo was home to one lonely elephant. Despite the staff

and keepers' best efforts, Maggie became sad, befriending a tire, and later becoming weak. To keep Maggie happy, the zookeepers knew Maggie needed friends and warmth. Fortunately, the Performing Animal Welfare Sanctuary (PAWS) in Galt, California, agreed to take her. PAWS, founded in 1984 by animal trainer to the stars, Pat Derby and her partner, Ed Stewart, is home to rescued exotic and performing animals, including two elephant groups.

"This elephant has lived such an unusual life and many people worked tirelessly to ensure her happiness," explained Curtis, who dedicated to the book to the Alaska Zoo's Executive Director, Pat Lampi. "I'd like to emphasize the fact that elephants should live in as close to their natural habitat as possible, how hard the staff worked to make this pachyderm content, and to highlight the fact that these smart animals are not only meant to live in groups but that they need to be with and touching other elephants all of the time."

After reading about Maggie's journey, readers will learn much more about being a keeper as well as the importance of belonging to a group in the book's "For Creative Minds" section. Curtis is no stranger to writing about human and animal relationships created in zoos and sanctuaries. Her popular Animal Helpers series features the many ways people are helping to conserve wildlife populations.

When she's not writing, Curtis cannot stay out of schools, hoping to inspire students to learn more about writing and the right way to help wild animals in need. Throughout the spring, Curtis will be presenting to Maryland students, encouraging them to read, write, and support wildlife.

Readers eager to learn Maggie's story will find *Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant* in hardcover (9781607184508, \$17.95), paperback (9781607184614, \$9.95), ebook (9781607184836, \$6.95) and dual-language, read-aloud, and interactive ebook (9781607185147, \$6.95). A Spanish language edition *Maggie, el último elefante en Alaska* is available in paperback (9781607184669, \$9.95), ebook (9781607184881, \$6.95), and dual-language, read-aloud, and interactive ebook (9781607185192, \$6.95). All formats are available from local booksellers and online retailers beginning February 10, 2018.