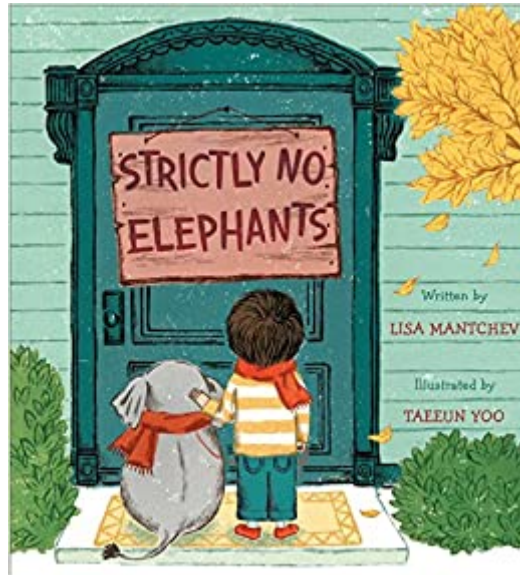




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# Strictly No Elephants



## Synopsis

“A sunny, smart, tongue-in-cheek tale.” • The New York Times Book Review  
Huffington Post Honor Book for Best in Kindness Bank Street Best Book of 2015 NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Charlotte Huck Honor Book CCBC (Cooperative Children’s Book Center) Choice Book Sold in twelve countries! When the local Pet Club won’t admit a boy’s tiny pet elephant, he finds a solution—one that involves all kinds of unusual animals in this sweet and adorable picture book. Today is Pet Club day. There will be cats and dogs and fish, but strictly no elephants are allowed. The Pet Club doesn’t understand that pets come in all shapes and sizes, just like friends. Now it is time for a boy and his tiny pet elephant to show them what it means to be a true friend. Imaginative and lyrical, this sweet story captures the magic of friendship and the joy of having a pet.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481416472

ISBN-13: 978-1481416474

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 84 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,345 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance #2 in Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Pets #4 in Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Elephants

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 • It’s Pet Club Day, and the sign on the door at #17 clearly states, “Strictly NO Elephants.” Current members treasure their birds, fish, cats, and dogs, but a young boy taking a walk with his tiny elephant, sharing an umbrella in a cool fall rain, sees no welcome for his friend, so he simply gives his usual support. “That’s what friends do—lift each other over the cracks—brave the scary things for you.” The boy and his elephant meet a girl with a skunk, who were also excluded from the Pet Club meeting, and decide to start a club of their own, one in

which all are welcome. Friends "never leave anyone behind." Illustrations emphasize the warmth of this message with Photoshop, block prints, and pencil in color spreads alternated with smaller vignettes highlighting the expressions of the children and their pets. VERDICT With a gentle message of inclusion and helping others, this title reaches beyond a mere friendship story. A solid general purchase for libraries and classrooms. — Mary Elam, Learning Media Services, Plano ISD, TX

After a little boy and his tiny elephant are barred from the Pet Club, they befriend other children with unusual pets. The first-person narrative has a quiet, contemplative feel: "The trouble with having a tiny elephant for a pet is that you never quite fit in. / No one else has an elephant. His pet is shy of sidewalk cracks: 'I always go back and help him over. That's what friends do: lift each other over the cracks.' Embodying dejection after the two turn from that large, titular sign on the door, a double-page spread • a Photoshop-augmented linoleum block print depicts a dark teal cityscape slashed with raindrops and bobbing with black umbrellas. The Caucasian boy, his pet (in matching red scarves), and a little African-American girl in cornrows and a red-and-orange striped dress are the bright spots in this poignant tableau. Turns out that this girl • a pet skunk curled on her lap • has been turned away too. "He doesn't stink," she says. "No, he doesn't," concurs the boy and then suggests, "What if we start our own club?" Observant children will spot a porcupine, penguin, and giraffe peering from brownstone windows along the way; they and their children join others with equally exotic pets. Yoo's concluding scenes depict a treehouse occupation (its restrictive message changed to "ALL ARE WELCOME") and multiethnic, multispecies harmony. Sweet and affirming. (Kirkus August 15, 2015) Having a tiny elephant for a pet sounds idyllic, but a boy discovers that the local Pet Club doesn't allow them; a stern girl points at a "Strictly No Elephants" sign. Heading home in the rain, the boy and his elephant spot a girl with her skunk. "They don't want us to play with them either," she says. Joined by other owners of unexpected pets • giraffes, armadillos, even a small narwhal in a bowl • they make their own club with its own sign: "All Are Welcome." In her first picture book, Mantchev (Ticker) examines true friendship, sprinkling observations about the behavior of boy and elephant throughout ("He doesn't like the cracks in the sidewalk much. I always go back and help him over") and punctuating them with the refrain, "Because that's what friends do." Yoo's (Hands Say Love) linoleum block prints of brick buildings and quiet sidewalks have

the softness and warmth of a favorite blanket. It's a message book about exclusion with an oh-so-gentle lead-in for discussion. (Publishers Weekly July 20, 2015) It's Pet Club Day, and the sign on the door at #17 clearly states, "Strictly NO Elephants." Current members treasure their birds, fish, cats, and dogs, but a young boy taking a walk with his tiny elephant, sharing an umbrella in a cool fall rain, sees no welcome for his friend, so he simply gives his usual support. "That's what friends do—lift each other over the cracks—brave the scary things for you." The boy and his elephant meet a girl with a skunk, who were also excluded from the Pet Club meeting, and decide to start a club of their own, one in which all are welcome. Friends "never leave anyone behind." Illustrations emphasize the warmth of this message with Photoshop, block prints, and pencil in color spreads alternated with smaller vignettes highlighting the expressions of the children and their pets.

**VERDICT** With a gentle message of inclusion and helping others, this title reaches beyond a mere friendship story. A solid general purchase for libraries and classrooms. (School Library Journal) "The trouble with having a tiny elephant for a pet is that you never quite fit in," says a little boy with a tiny pet elephant. The Pet Club won't let him in, and an angry sign "Strictly No Elephants" explains why. Forlorn, the boy and little elephant stumble on, the boy's warm-toned shirt popping against the background of people in dark blues, blacks, and teal. They find another outcast, a little girl with a skunk, and they decide to start their own club. Soon, owners with other unusual pets join them: a girl with a giraffe, a boy with a hedgehog, even a kid with a tiny narwhal in a glass bowl! Eagle-eyed little ones will notice new friends before they make their way to the pet parade. Though the story is slight, the clear message of inclusion is a good one, and the cheerful, lightly mottled block-print illustrations, with bright outlines and in a rich palette, exude lively motion among the children and their pets. Heartening, particularly for kids who often feel left out. (Booklist October 1, 2015) A sunny, smart, tongue-in-cheek tale by Lisa Mantchev. . . . How nice . . . to imagine such a peacable kingdom in our midst, especially as depicted in Tae-eun Yoo's intimate, warmly rounded and colored mixed-media illustrations--a richly textured meld of drawing and linocut art finished off in the Photoshop blender. (The New York Times Book Review January 17, 2016)

Bought this as an Easter gift for my almost two year old. She is obsessed with elephants and I was having a hard time finding a book. Wish they offered it as a board book, but it will be great for our story times!

Adorable! My 3 & 5 year old love this. The illustrations are to die for & it has a powerful message about acceptance. A must for your kid's bookshelf!

Cute story and my son loves shouting some of the lines.

EVERY home should own a hard copy of this wonderful piece of literature promoting peace on this good earth of ours :)

The sweetness of this book makes me want to keep it for myself rather than gift it to my niece as I had intended. She and I will have to share! The illustrations are perfectly matched to the whimsy of the story (Matching scarves! A porcupine in boots! A narwhal in a fishbowl!). I love the message of embracing what's different - it goes beyond mere acceptance and celebrates the beauty of friendship. It's an important lesson shared with simplicity and warmth.

Wonderful little story. Super quick read though. Purchased Kindle version when we were stuck in hotel. Was hoping for a longer read for my 6 year olds. Still a great message however and lovely illustrations. Hardcover would be a beautiful gift.

Beautifully written and illustrated.

Good condition

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