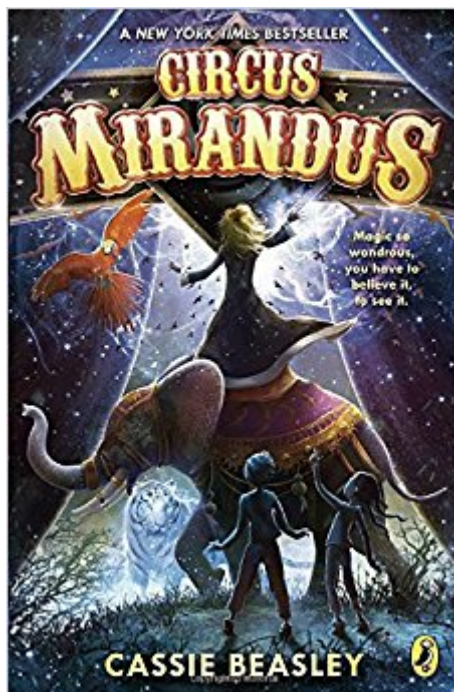


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Circus Mirandus



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller! "A beguiling first novel" —Gregory Maguire — in the New York Times "Takes readers to a marvelous place." —The Wall Street Journal Even though his awful Great-Aunt Gertrudis doesn't approve, Micah believes in the stories his dying Grandpa Ephraim tells him of the magical Circus Mirandus: the invisible tiger guarding the gates, the beautiful flying birdwoman, and the magician more powerful than any other — the Man Who Bends Light. Finally, Grandpa Ephraim offers proof. The Circus is real. And the Lightbender owes Ephraim a miracle. With his friend Jenny Mendoza in tow, Micah sets out to find the Circus and the man he believes will save his grandfather. The only problem is, the Lightbender doesn't want to keep his promise. And now it's up to Micah to get the miracle he came for.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0710 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Dgs Rep edition (August 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0147515548

ISBN-13: 978-0147515544

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 181 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,209 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #64 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #70 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4 — Sixth-grader Micah Tuttle has been living with his Grandpa Ephraim since his parents died when he was very young. The two are close; Grandpa Ephraim teaches Micah how to tie complicated knots and tells him fanciful tales about the magical Circus Mirandus and its many performers, including a powerful illusionist called the Lightbender. When Grandpa Ephraim becomes gravely ill, his sister, the strict and dour Aunt Gertrudis, comes to take care of the

household. She severely limits Micah's time with his sick grandfather, and the boy is distraught at the idea of losing the only important person in his life. In a stolen moment, Grandpa Ephraim surprises Micah by revealing that the Circus Mirandus is real, and that the Lightbender promised him a miracle when he was a child. The protagonist begins to hope that his grandfather will get well. The Circus Mirandus arrives in town on the wind, and Micah, with the help of his classmate Jenny Mendoza, seeks out the Lightbender and tries to retrieve the miracle that Grandpa Ephraim has requested. During a whirlwind adventure in the Circus, Micah learns about his family and discovers that the miracle that Grandpa Ephraim asked for might not be the one that Micah had in mind. Circus Mirandus is not a simple story, but readers will be rewarded for delving into its intricacies. VERDICT This gripping fantasy tale will have readers hooked from the opening scene to the breathtaking and unexpected conclusion. Sarah Reid, Broome County Public Library, Binghamton, NY --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Circus Mirandus is a New York Times Book Review EDITOR'S CHOICE! "A beguiling first novel" Gregory Maguire, author of Egg and Spoon, in the New York Times "Manifestations of belief and unbelief run through Cassie Beasley's charming debut, which takes readers to a marvelous place." The Wall Street Journal "You'll love the chance to believe in magic again." Redbook "Totally immersive (and plans for a movie version are in the works!)." Good Housekeeping "Cassie Beasley's story will enthrall older kids." Parents Magazine "The book is a fantastical circus romp...a delicious confection and much more: it shows that the human heart is delicate, that it matters, and that it must be handled with care." Kirkus Reviews, starred review "This gripping fantasy tale will have readers hooked from the opening scene to the breathtaking and unexpected conclusion." School Library Journal, starred review "Readers will be left with the reminder that just because a magic is small doesn't mean it is unimportant and the hope, reminiscent of Peter Pan, that those who still believe will always have magic in their lives." Publishers Weekly, starred review "Circus Mirandus is an engaging, innovative tale that balances fantastical goings-on with an exploration of love, loss, friendship and the value of being open to the unexplainable." BookPage "Some books take readers to different places or let us experience fantastical lands, but Circus Mirandus brings the magic to our world." Scholastic Instructor, "50 Best Books for Summer" "Beasley elegantly fits together her story's many pieces, crafting a tale where

magic is not an illusion but something we can all find....A+." **•Cleveland Plain Dealer**"If you enjoy the magical tales of Roald Dahl, you will love this story about Micah Tuttle's search for a powerful magician named the Lightbender, who owes his dying grandfather a miracle. **•Kiki Magazine, Summer Book Club Pick** "The tender relationship between grandfather and grandson is delicately drawn, and the family backstory, with its ties to a dark episode in the millennia-old history of Circus Mirandus, is intriguing...At the core of Beasley's debut novel is the theme of eternal life explored in *Babbitt* and *Tuck Everlasting*." **•BCCB** "Debut author Beasley has built an imaginative world in evocative, painterly prose, particularly the circus, and she's filled it with compellingly multifaceted characters." **•Booklist** "Studded with descriptions that make people and props alike come alive, this story will make readers wish so very badly that a circus, complete with gorilla balloons and mysterious bird ladies, will pop up one day in town and only accept those who truly believe in magic." **•VOYA** From the Hardcover edition.

"Circus Mirandus" by Cassie Beasley was a fantastic and magical debut novel. I wasn't sure what to expect when picking it up but it took me to the same place "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach" did when I was a child. Micah Tuttle is the grandson of Ephraim Tuttle. Micah has spent all of his ten years hearing his Grandpa Ephraim's wonderful and magical stories of Circus Mirandus and thought that that was exactly what they were: stories. Grandpa Ephraim is now very ill, indeed, and reveals to Micah that the stories were all true. Not only that, but that when Ephraim visited the Circus many years ago, the Lightbender promised him a miracle and that he has called for that miracle to be honored. Micah and his friend, Jenny Mendoza, battle to get his Grandpa his miracle. They have some wonderful adventures and become good friends along the way. I loved the point and counter-point of these two characters - one who believes in magic and one who believes in science. As I mentioned, it reminds me of some of Roald Dahl's works. These books were read aloud to my class when I was eight years old. I think that "Circus Mirandus" is a wonderful book for parents to read to their like aged children - chapter by chapter each night at bedtime. I always let my children stay up a half hour past bedtime as long as they spent it reading or being read to - really created a love of reading in all of them. An older child, or a advanced reading younger child would be able to read the book by themselves. However, I would make myself available to young children for their questions as there are some serious subjects dealt with

in this story (illness, abandonment, cruelty) that a parent would probably want to explain to their child. This is a story that would lend itself fantastically to becoming a film. The author has given the story depth and color with her wonderful descriptions throughout. I could see the Bird Woman, the Lightbender, the Menagerie, Rosebud, and everyone else. Additionally, I am sincerely hoping that this book is the first in a series. There are questions unanswered. There are adventures to be had. There are places to be seen and people to meet. I certainly hope to see Micah, Jenny, and the Man Who Bends Light (and maybe even Chintzy again in the future. I absolutely loved the book. I was given an Advance Reading Copy which did not contain the final illustrations, so I can't speak for those. I so enjoyed the book, I will purchase copies for my grandchildren of the final copy. I'm sure that the illustrations will add greatly to an already fantastic book. It is a book that I recommend for both boys and girls of all ages.

While I'm not really the target-audience for this kind of book (and I don't even really like YA), I enjoyed the heck out of CIRCUS MIRANDUS. Beasley's phrasing is excellent, and the book was filled with lines that made me want to break out a highlighter and take note. What I liked most about the book, I think, is its willingness to go in some strange places. In particular, Beasley doesn't pull back from some of the sadder moments of the story, or from some of the emotionally complicated moments either (e.g., the situation with a character named Victoria). That CIRCUS MIRANDUS was willing to go in those directions was refreshing and exciting without being "too adult" for younger readers. I'd be remiss, however, if I didn't mention how fun much of the book is. When two characters go to the movies, when Ms. Chintzey gets sassy, when a character rides a balloon -- it's all a lot of fun. I do wish it was a bit longer, as I would have enjoyed spending more time with Micah Tuttle.

Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley I got to see the first few chapters on Netgalley as a sneak peek and after tearing through the preview I ordered this book. It arrived and the cover is just as fun as what is inside the book. Peek through the cutout cover and see a world of wonder. Our main character is Micah. His grandfather Ephram once got an invitation to attend the Circus Mirandus for a week. While there he witnessed magic and it transported him for a little while away from the turmoil of living during WWII. Ephram's favorite attraction was the Light Bender. A man who could pull anything from your imagination and make it real, even if only for a moment. Ephram did something then that earned him a miracle, and now it is time for him to collect that

miracle. Because Ephram is dying and he has one last wish, all he needs is the Light Bender to come and grant it. Micah is the type of hero I love. In a wonderful Cinderella story, if Cinderella was a Prince instead of a princess, Micah has just a few days to convince the Light Bender and the members of this magical circus to help his grandfather. Because Grandpa Ephram only has a few days left and Micah needs that miracle to come true. Micah will fight with his new best friend for that miracle and discover what Grandpa Ephram's last wish is. Because sometimes what we really want isn't what we really need. This is a story that takes place in a kind of any-town USA, and features a great cast of characters. There are bad guys, good guys, magic, school, a brilliant elephant, and a wise cracking parrot. I read this in one short sitting, and the end left me with a smile. While there is room for a sequel, the end of the story does not leave you hanging. If you read *The Vampire's Assistant* and loved the beginning of the series but found the ending unsettling and unsatisfying, this story is for you. This is classic escapism fantasy and if your child likes that kind of story, I recommend this story for you. A great story for boys and girls, dreamers and adventurers. The next part contains spoilers so Don't read if you don't want to know: Parental Note: For the age range, not a whole lot. There is a death in the story and it is handled well for the target age range. The Aunt is borderline abusive, and while her reason for being so mean is explained about two thirds of the way through, it still does not excuse her horrible behavior.

Grampa Ephraim is sick, and it's not just the flu, so when his grandson Micah gets desperate, he remembers the old stories of Circus Mirandus--and the lightbender that has promised grampa a miracle. Micah and his friend Jenny Mendoza head off to find Circus Mirandus in hopes of redeeming Grampa Ephraim's miracle. Perhaps they can buy some time. But that isn't how the Lightbender's magic works. What a fantastic story Circus Mirandus is: childlike belief and wonder, odd and splendid circus people, delightful magic and bittersweet tones. Give to readers who love Roald Dahl, or readers who love magic, or readers who have dreamed of running away with the circus, or readers who have desperately wanted to hang onto someone that they love. Give it to everyone

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