



Tusk Tusk

By David McKee

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Once elephants came in two colors: black or white. They loved all other creatures, but each set wanted to exterminate the elephants that were not the same as themselves. Peace-loving individuals ran and hid in the deepest jungle, and battle commenced. The war-mongers all succeeded. For a long time it seemed that there were no elephants in the world at all, not of any color. But then the descendants of the peace-loving ones emerged from the jungle, and by now they were all gray.

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Tusk Tusk By David McKee Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Two bands of elephants, one black and one white, "loved all creatures, but they hated each other." Each group keeps to its own side of the jungle, until a war breaks out between them, and the peace-loving elephants from both sides take cover in the jungle. After a bitter battle, all the elephants lay dead; no elephants are seen for many years. One day the descendants of the peace-lovers emerge: "They were grey." The book ends on an ironic note as members of the new grey breed notice that they fall into two groups once again, each with differently shaped ears. The stylized renderings of the elephants and their environs make this straightforward book about prejudice easier to digest in an allegorical sense; the story becomes both accessible and illuminating. In clear, bold illustrations that celebrate shape and color, McKee incorporates several witty touches: the elephants' trunks become weapons, the "darkest jungle" is portrayed as a giant maze. Although the book stands on its own merit, it might also offer an excellent point of departure for discussion between parent and child. Ages 5-10.

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Review

"A first lesson in tolerance. The illustrations are exceptionally ingenious. . . the colors are especially lovely."
—*Times Educational Supplement*

"David McKee's versatility is astonishing." —*School Librarian*

About the Author

David McKee's first book was published in 1964. His books are now published in many languages throughout the world, and many of them have been adapted for television. He is one of the leading contemporary children's book creators.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ian Coghlan:

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