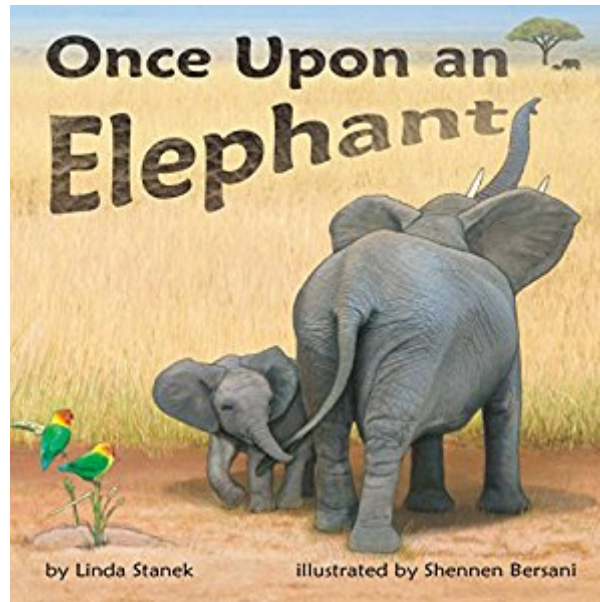




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# Once Upon An Elephant



## Synopsis

From slowing wildfires to planting seeds, one animal is the true superhero that keeps the African savanna in balance. Elephants dig to find salt that other animals lick, their deep footprints collect water for small creatures to drink, and they eat young trees to keep the forest from overtaking the grasslands. In every season, the elephants are there to protect the savanna and its residents - but what would happen if the elephants were only "once upon a time"? Listen along to discover the important role this keystone species plays in the savanna, and explore what would happen if the elephants vanished.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

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Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #57 in [Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science & Nature](#)  
#770 in [Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Animals](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is well written and easy for all to understand. It is full of excellent information about elephants and you may be surprised at how valuable elephants are in the realm of things. Linda Stanek the author does a great job putting the information in written form and Shennen Bersani illustrates the book beautifully. Once Upon an Elephant

This is very well written by Linda Stanek, and beautifully illustrated by Shennen Bersani. I love all things "elephant" and this book did not disappoint! I recommend it to anyone who wants you know the ecological impact that elephants have on their environment, or anyone who loves elephants and pictures of them. I give it five (5) stars!!

Great book, and really relevant, given the threats elephants face in the world these days. Lots of instruction for children. I have bought two, and will be buying at least two more, for all the children

on my Christmas list.

Excellent accounting of how one animal affects an entire ecosystem. Our 4 year old grandson loves it!

Once Upon an Elephant is a story about the important role elephants play in the lives of countless other species. How their day to day activities protect and encourage growth on the savanna, which also helps other animals. The information is delivered in age appropriate language with 2-4 sentences per page. The story itself reveals several specific elephant 'activities' that benefits others and how many would suffer without the elephants. For example, how the heaviness of the elephant causes their footprints to be deep enough to hold water. At times, during the dry season, these small pools are the only source of water for many animals...even younger children understand that without the elephants many animals would not survive.I'm so excited about the children's books available from Adorable Publishing. These books encourage parents, teachers, older brothers/sisters, grandparents, etc. to get involved. Interactive quizzes, cross-curricular activities and more are available at Adorable Publishing's website. Elephants are called a keystone species, because they play a very important role in the lives of other animals, therefore affecting the entire ecosystem of the savanna. The number of elephants in the wild has dwindled to an embarrassingly low number in the last twenty years. If we and by we I mean all of us, do nothing, within a short period of time, these majestic animals will be a memory. Stories about them will have no choice but begin with.. "Once upon a time there was an elephant."There's a lot of information contained in the last two pages. Maps, pictures, small info boxes. One example of an "all about elephants" info box: Female: cow Male: bull Baby: calf Group Name: herd My experience.I read Once Upon an Elephant to my 4.5 year old, animal loving, book lover, granddaughter. She was excited as soon as she looked at the cover. She listened patiently, looking at every detail in each picture...until the third set of repetitions... "once upon an elephant," followed by, "but the elephants were there." Granted we've been reading to her, since way before she was able to even know that's what we were doing - which may mean she's more picky or opinionated than the typical 4.5 year old. But she liked it better when I skipped those words. Curious, I shared the book with my neighbor. She has two granddaughters age 7 and 9, and two grandsons age 3 and 6. The nine year old was immediately put off by the repetition, as was the 6 year old grandson. The 7 year old said it was ok, but she liked it better when Grandma took those words out. (The 3 year old was doing his own thing. The older kids enjoyed the website and all the extra information on those last two pages. I heard "elephants are pretty cool" ....

and WOW, isn't that the response we are seeking? If you have a child age 4-7, this is a fun, beautifully illustrated picture book - that inspires and encourages kids to learn more.

Once Upon an Elephant is a unique look at how important elephants are to the African landscape. As a keystone species, these animals play a critical role in the functioning of the ecosystem, and this children's book does a wonderful job at highlighting these various contributions. As a current zoo educator in the zoo & aquarium field for many years, I tend to be critical of children's stories about animals, since many of them perpetuate animal misconceptions (e.g. opossums hang upside from trees - no, they don't) and/or classify species incorrectly (e.g. telling a story about a monkey but all the illustrations are of an orangutan, who's actually a great ape). Especially when it is a story set in Africa, a place I've spent personal time in for several months and am quite attached to. So it was \*REFRESHING\* to explore Stanek's informative story and enjoy Bersani's accurate illustrations, taking me back to a place I love dearly and a book I would be very comfortable as an educator sharing with participants. Stanek's passion for wildlife and wild places is evident throughout the story and pulls you in as you turn each page, intrigued to explore "what else?!" elephants do! The book comes with a couple informational pages at the back that provide parents, teachers, etc. tools to continue this important conversation about keystone species and extend the learning. It would've been great to wrap up the story with a little more hope -- how humans can bring hope and restoration to the story, how we can empower readers and the people of that African landscape to make change.

That's something we try to leave with each visitor, child or adult, as they walk away from a program, conversation, or just a day at the zoo. "But the elephants were there!" Yes they are and let's keep it that way :) Thank you for a beautiful story and educational resource, Linda - nicely done!

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