

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

McKee, David

## Illustrator

Illustrated by the author

## Reviewer

Baker, Laura

## Pages

Unpaged

## Price

\$18.99

## ISBN

978-1-7284-9205-6

## Publisher & Date

Andersen, 2023

## Classification

Fiction

## Grade Level

PreK-2

## Book Review: ELMER AND THE GIFT

Elmer the patchwork elephant returns with another heartwarming tale. Elmer's friend Rose tells him that Aunt Zelda is looking for him because she has something to give him. Elmer and Rose walk to find Aunt Zelda, encountering other animals who repeat the message. When they find Aunt Zelda, who is getting rather forgetful, she cannot remember what it was she wanted to give Elmer. Only when the animals find Grandpa Eldo do they get the clue that jogs Aunt Zelda's memory and that gives Elmer the long-awaited gift, the best thing he could get.

This is a warming book about friendship and caring for older folks. Aunt Zelda is partially deaf and forgetful, but she obviously has the love of Elmer and all the other jungle animals. Their expressions as they accompany Elmer to find Aunt Zelda mirror their interest in helping solve the gift mystery. The illustrations feature McKee's signature fantastical jungle with bright colors, stripes, and polka dots. Readers will chuckle when Aunt Zelda mishears conversations, but Elmer takes it all in stride. Of course, her gift is precious.

The Elmer books always feature loveable characters, comforting stories infused with humor, and the gentle Elmer with his big heart and patchwork coloring. David McKee fittingly won the BookTrust Lifetime Achievement Award. He passed away in 2022, so this is his last Elmer book. Be sure to get a copy.

