

The Elephants Spell (by Millie Y6)

In the small, cosy village of Carlotta, there lived a girl called Marigold, who had obsidian-black hair and shining amber eyes. She was a girl who found joy in everything; from watching a beautiful sunset to doing exams at school. But if there was one thing that could always put a smile on her face, it was Prata.

Prata was a Violet-River elephant who lived within the magnificent Carlotta Zoo, attracting the love of amazed tourists with her beautiful amethyst complexion and elegance. Marigold lived in a little cottage next door -her dad was the head zookeeper - and she would visit Prata every day after school. There was a special bond between them, something deeper than friendship. But one day, this entwined them a bit too closely.

It was a beautiful afternoon; the sky was crystal-clear and the colour of polished sapphires, the sun shining upon everything in sight. It was magical. Marigold walked up to Prata's enclosure, gazing into her loving eyes. She felt a shiver run down her spine. Marigold placed one hand on Prata's wrinkled forehead. Her hands started to tingle, and soon she was paralysed. Emerald sparks shot from the tips of her fingers, but when she tried to pull her hand away, an invisible force was holding her back. She felt her vision slipping away, the world she had always known fading....

Marigold sat up, gasping. It was night-time, and the moon cast a ghostly glow over everything. What had happened? She tried to stand up, leaning against the metal bars for support.

Wait.

Metal bars?

Her limbs felt large, heavy, skin sagging but comfortable. But when she looked down, she knew something was wrong. She had no hands. Instead, four ivory hooves stood shakily on the ground.

She couldn't be.

She looked up, gazing into the eyes of a confused Marigold, who was making hollow trumpeting noises. She felt fear engulf her in a storm of tangled blackness, consuming all the good thoughts in her mind.

It was Prata.

Marigold realised, with a rush of disbelief, that they had swapped bodies. Marigold was now the elephant, and Prata was the human.

The next day, Simon - Marigold's best friend - visited the zoo. He had noticed something strange about her at school; she was extremely quiet and kept making odd noises. He realised he had to help reverse her.

Simon persuaded his parents to take him to the British Library, where he discovered several ancient volumes on transformation and sorcery. He brought the books back to Carlotta Zoo, where he found Marigold waiting. She was so eager to be herself again, but when Simon opened the spellbook and started chanting in a melodic tongue, she asked him to stop. She realised she enjoyed being an elephant; she loved the Keepers with all her heart. She realised Prata had also come to love the life of a human.

So Marigold stayed an elephant, and Prata a human. They both lived long, fruitful lives.