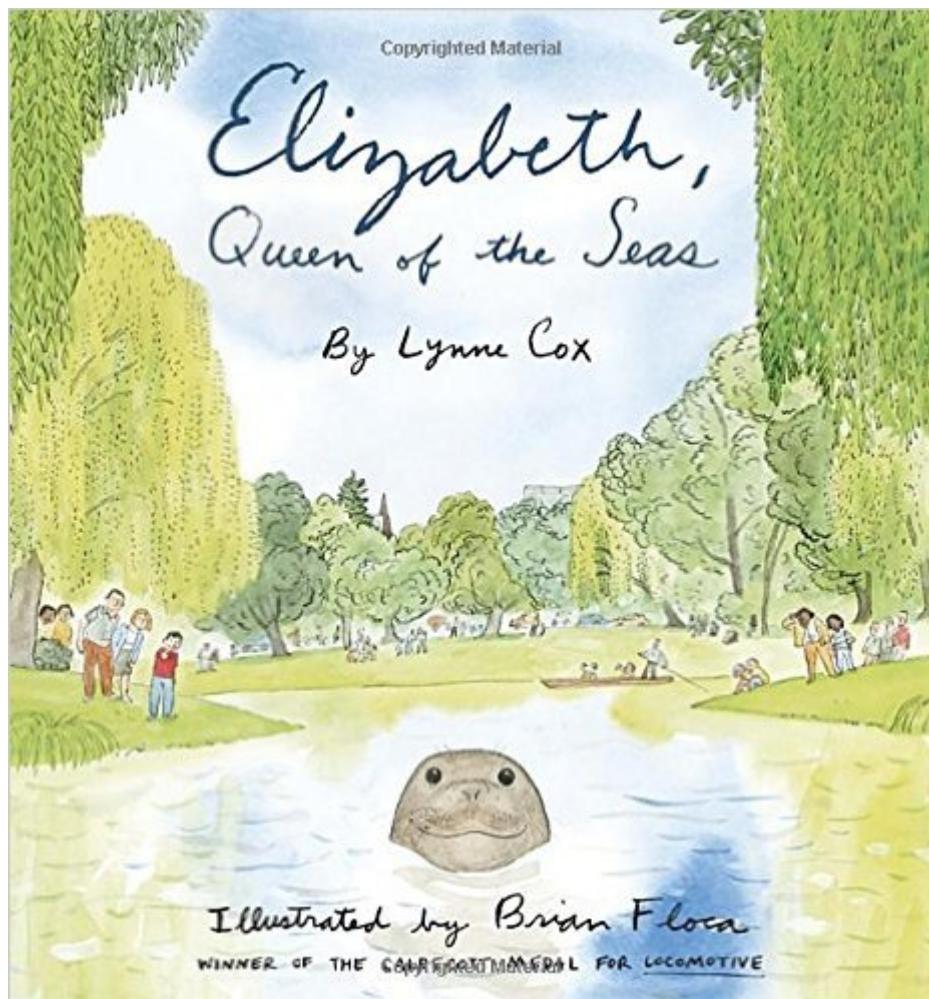


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# Elizabeth, Queen Of The Seas



## **Synopsis**

World-renowned swimmer and bestselling author Lynne Cox and Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator Brian Floca team up to bring us this inspiring story of an elephant seal who knew exactly where she belonged. Here is the incredible story of Elizabeth, a real-life elephant seal who made her home in the Avon River in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand. When Elizabeth decides to stretch out across a two-lane road, the citizens worry she might get hurt or cause traffic accidents, so a group of volunteers tows her out to sea. But Elizabeth swims all the way back to Christchurch. The volunteers catch her again and againâ "each time towing her farther, even hundreds of miles awayâ "but, still, Elizabeth finds her way back home. Includes back matter with information about elephant seals.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD900L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade (May 13, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375858881

ISBN-13: 978-0375858888

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,158 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Australia & Oceania #22 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology #46 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

A good book but initially did not hold the interest of my 4 yr old granddaughter who was just starting pre-K and excited about that. Her 8 yr old sister looked at it and read it longer. But...I thought it was a good story, a real story, and had good pictures and will be talking it up and reading it when I visit. Pictures are like "watercolors" though, and I have noticed that simpler drawings and more vibrant colors are sometimes more attractive to little people.

In Christchurch, New Zealand, a unique elephant seal made her unconventional home a city rather than the sea. Even after worried locals moved Elizabeth back to the ocean three times - they feared that Elizabeth would be hurt or cause an accident, as she had a habit of sunning herself in the middle of the road - she returned to Christchurch, no matter how long the journey took. I loved this beautiful and inspiring story of Elizabeth, the elephant seal who knew exactly where she belonged.

A beautiful story of a mammal clearly knowing where she belongs, showing her determination to stay there. I'm glad too, that the people of Christchurch, love, or loved her and found a way to accommodate her when they saw how determined she was to stay at Christchurch.

Lynne Cox, the world-renown record-breaking long distance swimmer and New York Times bestselling author, has combined forces with Brian Floca, the Caldecott Award-winning illustrator to create a delightful and must-see book which tells the story of a beguiling elephant seal, Elizabeth, who prefers to live amongst the people of Christchurch, New Zealand, playing in the beautiful Avon River, which wends its way through the pretty little town, and lazily sunning herself on the riverbank and, sometimes, on the nice warm pavement in the middle of the streets, than to be out in the chilly ocean waters where most elephant seals tend to reside. The townspeople love Elizabeth, but when she comes close to being injured by cars in the street, they decided that for her and their own safety, she should be towed out to sea where she belongs. However, Elizabeth is a very determined elephant seal. She knows where her true home is, as does Michael, the wise little boy who dearly loves Elizabeth and keeps a lookout for her return. Each time she returns, the townspeople tow Elizabeth farther out to sea, but when she finally makes her way home, through the cold darkness of the night waters, and strong currents which would have deterred most, travelling for miles and miles on end, not letting anything get in her way of her goal to be where she belongs, the people of Christchurch heartily and lovingly welcome her back. This is a beautifully illustrated book - light and brightly lit with watercolor illustrations, illuminating Elizabeth's wonderful contented smile. She knows where she belongs. Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas is based on a true story told to Lynne Cox many years ago during a visit to Christchurch, and her book includes a photo of the REAL Elizabeth, along with some fascinating educational material about elephant seals. This is a keeper, to be read to your children and to be passed on down through the generations.

As an early childhood teacher and one who dabbled in writing process with the children it is so well

written with example given and some repetition to be a bit predictable and very factual in such a pleasure way for any reader Will recommend and come and see her is she is still alive when I visit in2016

Long distance, open water swimmer Lynne Cox visited New Zealand in 1983. While walking along the Avon river in Christchurch, a boy named Michael and his sister Maggie asked her if she was looking for Elizabeth. Lynne spent the rest of the day talking with them about the famous elephant seal (sea elephant as the kiwis call them) that lived in the river and had been named in honor of the Queen of England. It turns out that having a 2,000 pound mammal residing in your city can be a bit of a challenge to public safety, especially when they like to lie in the middle of nice warm roads. The New Zealand wildlife managers decided to relocate her to a nearby elephant seal colony. To everyone's amazement, she returned to the banks of the Avon again and again. The people of Christchurch became so attached to Elizabeth that the city decided that it was better to adjust the behavior of people to Elizabeth's presence than to try to make her change her behavior. Lynne Cox' new book Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas tells the lovely story of Elizabeth and Michael's ongoing friendship (sadly, Maggie is left out of the story). Each time Elizabeth is taken away, Michael longs to see her again and every time she returns, they are delighted to be reunited. Brian Floca's lovingly realistic illustrations bring the story to life. My son particularly delighted in the image of Elizabeth tossing huge clumps of mud onto her back. On the final page of Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas, there is a brief discussion of the natural history of elephant seals, describing their eating habits, life cycle, habitat, etc. This sweet story is a definite keeper for anyone interested in fostering a love of the natural world and encouraging people to find a way to live in harmony with the world around us. This review and more like it available on my blog, Bibliopapa.

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