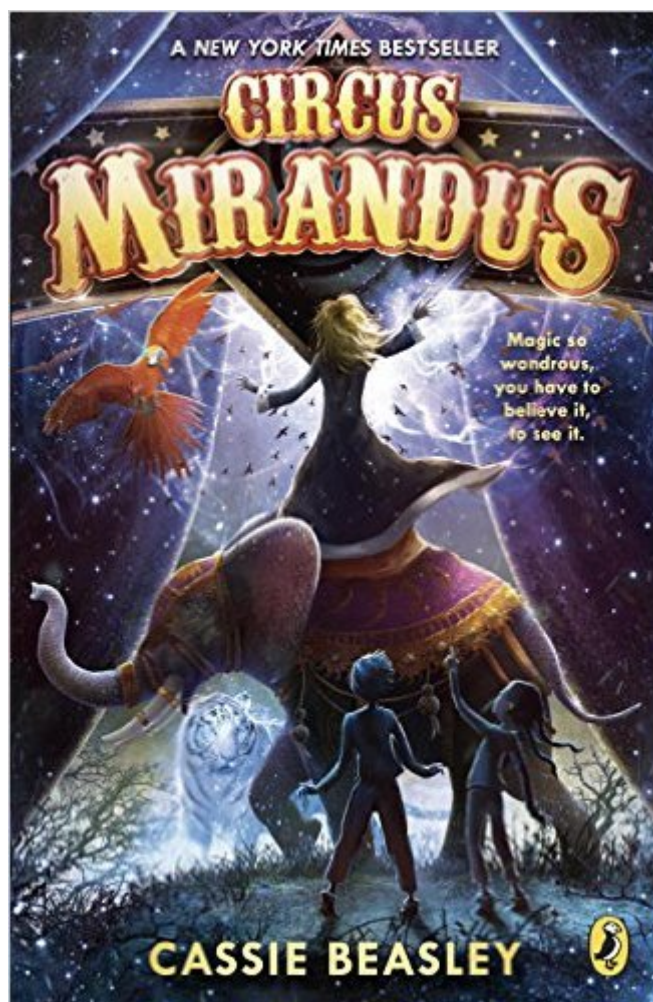


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# Circus Mirandus



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller! "A beguiling first novel" —Gregory Maguire in the New York Times "Takes readers to a marvelous place." —The Wall Street Journal Even though his awful Great-Aunt Gertrudis doesn't approve, Micah believes in the stories his dying Grandpa Ephraim tells him of the magical Circus Mirandus: the invisible tiger guarding the gates, the beautiful flying birdwoman, and the magician more powerful than any other—the Man Who Bends Light. Finally, Grandpa Ephraim offers proof. The Circus is real. And the Lightbender owes Ephraim a miracle. With his friend Jenny Mendoza in tow, Micah sets out to find the Circus and the man he believes will save his grandfather. The only problem is, the Lightbender doesn't want to keep his promise. And now it's up to Micah to get the miracle he came for.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0710 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (148 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,117 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #13 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Circus Mirandus" by Cassie Beasley was a fantastic and magical debut novel. I wasn't sure what to expect when picking it up but it took me to the same place "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach" did when I was a child. Micah Tuttle is the grandson of Ephraim Tuttle. Micah has spent all of his ten years hearing his Grandpa Ephraim's wonderful and magical stories of Circus Mirandus and thought that that was

exactly what they were: stories. Grandpa Ephraim is now very ill, indeed, and reveals to Micah that the stories were all true. Not only that, but that when Ephraim visited the Circus many years ago, the Lightbender promised him a miracle and that he has called for that miracle to be honored. Micah and his friend, Jenny Mendoza, battle to get his Grandpa his miracle. They have some wonderful adventures and become good friends along the way. I loved the point and counter-point of these two characters – one who believes in magic and one who believes in science. As I mentioned, it reminds me of some of Roald Dahl's works. These books were read aloud to my class when I was eight years old. I think that *Circus Mirandus* is a wonderful book for parents to read to their like aged children chapter by chapter each night at bedtime. I always let my children stay up a half hour past bedtime as long as they spent it reading or being read to – really created a love of reading in all of them. An older child, or a precious younger child would be able to read the book by themselves. However, I would make myself available to young children for their questions as there are some serious subjects dealt with in this story (illness, abandonment, cruelty) that a parent would probably want to explain to their child. This is a story that would lend itself fantastically to becoming a film. The author has given the story depth and color with her wonderful descriptions throughout. I could see the Ian Bird Woman, the Lightbender, the Menagerie, Rosebud, and everyone else. Additionally, I am sincerely hoping that this book is the first in a series. There are questions unanswered. There are adventures to be had. There are places to be seen and people to meet. I certainly hope to see Micah, Jenny, and the Man Who Bends Light (and maybe even Chintzy – who am I kidding, definitely Chintzy) again in the future. I absolutely loved the book. I was given an Advance Reading Copy which did not contain the final illustrations, so I can't speak for those. I so enjoyed the book, I will purchase copies for my grandchildren of the final copy. I'm sure that the illustrations will add greatly to an already fantastic book. It is a book that I recommend for both boys and girls of all ages.

*Circus Mirandus*. Micah, the little boy who is the main character is being raised by his grandfather, whom he deeply and sincerely loves. His grandfather tells him about Circus Mirandus, which he hasn't been to since he was a boy. Now Micah wants to go to this circus. But not just because it is a circus, but because it is a special circus for a special reason: Grandpa still has a miracle that he hasn't "cashed in" on yet. I will not tell you what the miracle is, because I don't want to ruin the book for you. But you will find out if you read the book. Micah desperately wants to go to Circus Mirandus. He is determined, but he has a thorn in his side trying to keep him from not only going to the circus, but from not believing in magic: his mean great aunt. I enjoyed this book, especially the part about

actually being at the circus, as I love carnivals. I also loved the fact that they were trying to let Micah know the difference between reality and fantasy (magic). There was fun, but yet they were practical and realistic. I'm not a fantasy person (I know, that is probably the most or one of the most popular genres of today, and everybody loves it), but I do love fairs and carnivals. I don't know if this book would actually be considered "fantasy". But I do know that the part about the circus was fun. Well written and fun book.

This fun book is not so magical it's not realistic, and not so realistic it isn't magical. Micah's beloved grandfather's life is slowly winding down, and his Great Aunt Gertrudis doesn't much care. She has no consideration for the special friendship that Grandpa Ephriam and Micah share, so Micah takes it upon himself (with the help of spunky smart neighbor girl Jenny Mendoza) to locate The Lightbender. From his grandfather's fantastic tales of life with the Circus Mirandus, it appears The Lightbender may owe grandpa a life-saving favor. Take a cup of Harry Potter, mix with a little Ransom Riggs (MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN) and stir together with some lovely writing all its own. Add several quirky characters with a few that are more one-dimensional (Aunt Gertrudis is pretty much one-note) and I think you have a book worth reading. I think CIRCUS MIRANDUS will be enjoyed most by those who already like to read, but in my experience those reading types need a new book every week (if not every few days) and this is a good one. About me: I'm a middle school/high school librarian How I got this book: review copy from the publisher

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