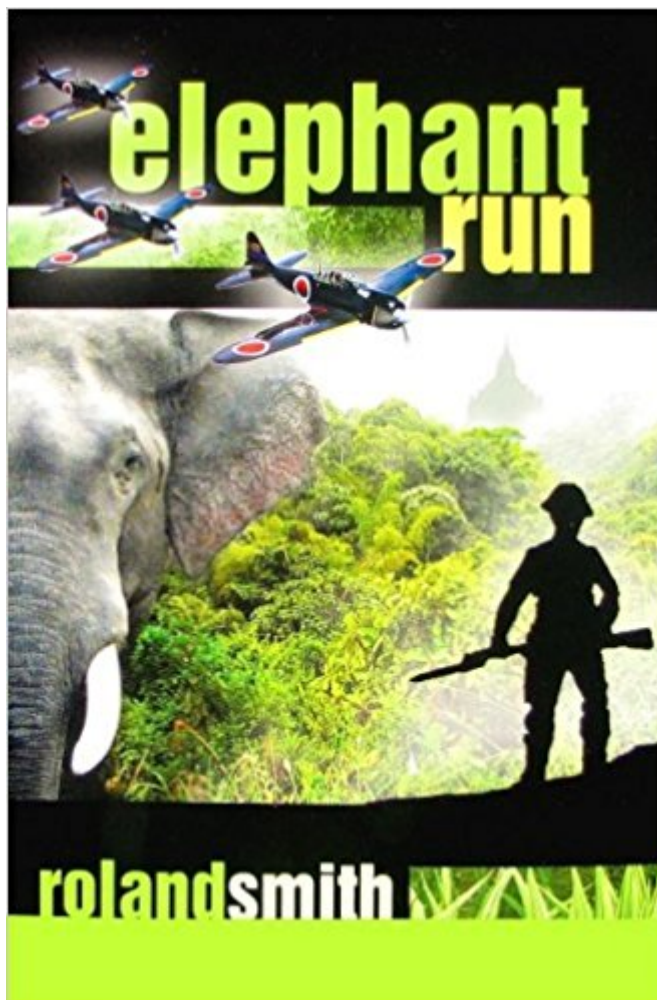


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# Elephant Run



## Synopsis

In 1941, bombs drop from the night skies of London, demolishing the apartment Nick Freestone lives in with his mother. Deciding the situation in England is too unstable, Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma, hoping he will be safer living on the family's teak plantation. But as soon as Nick arrives, trouble erupts in the remote Burmese elephant village. Japanese soldiers invade, and Nick's father is taken prisoner. Nick is left stranded on the plantation, forced to work as a servant to the new rulers. As life in the village grows more dangerous for Nick and his young friend, Mya, they plan their daring escape. Setting off on elephant back, they will risk their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese POW camp. In this thrilling journey through the jungles of Burma, Roland Smith explores the far-reaching effects of World War II, while introducing readers to the fascinating world of wild timber elephants and their mahouts.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion; Reprint edition (June 30, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1423104013

ISBN-13: 978-1423104018

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #96,909 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in [Books > Children's Books](#)

> [Animals > Elephants](#) #87 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical](#)

[Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #3493 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 10 - 11 years

Grade Level: 5 - 6

## Customer Reviews

At the height of the London blitz, Nick's mother sends him to join his father on the family's remote, ancestral timber plantation in Burma. Her gambit turns out badly: The invading Japanese soon seize the plantation, imprisoning his father in a brutal POW camp, and leaving 13-year-old Nick to endure hardship under Japanese overseers (whose characterizations are less complex than those of the diverse Burmese). As readers will expect

from suspense-specialist Smith, Nick faces exciting situations (including several weeks in the estate's secret catacombs), and details of Burmese politics, spirituality, and daily life weave an alluring backdrop. Some readers, however, may feel disoriented by Smith's fragmented storytelling style, in which momentum often seems to consolidate around one character or plot development only to move suddenly in an entirely new direction. Still, this offering's unusual setting deserves attention from historical fiction fans, who will appreciate the window on a rarely discussed theater of World War II. Grades 5-8. --Jennifer Mattson --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Roland Smith is the author of *Zach's Lie*, an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers; *Cryptid Hunters*; *Thunder Cave*; *Jaguar*; *The Last Lobo*; and *Sasquatch*. He lives outside of Portland, Oregon, with his wife Marie, who also writes children's books.

When purchasing an item I always search for great quality, great reviews, without putting a dent in my wallet. Item arrived promptly with Prime. I read this book to my son eight years ago, and to this day it is our favorite book. It is just such an amazing story, that its a book we will never forget. This is our third copy. The only thing I was disappointed about, is that the cover I received is not the cover pictured, and that was the original cover of the book I had read my son. Would have been nice if the seller would have advertised the product as having a different cover art. Especially for those that are buying it for sentimental reasons. However, the story is superb and I would highly recommend.

*Elephant Run* was an exceptionally good book to read. Some parts were emotional, however others were confusing, because the dialogue didn't contain enough detail about the cultural traditions. This story gives details of a Burmese person's life, including the Mahouts, and other engaging Burmese cultural traditions. I enjoyed learning about the characters as they matured, and understanding the multiple perspectives of WWII. As a result of the war, the lines blurred between protagonists and antagonists. Even though this book is confusing, we liked it because it has a great ending, and can teach several lessons.

This is a young adult Novel about WWII and about a boy named Nick Freestone, who at the start of the book in 1941, is living with his mother and her Husband in London. The apartment where they are living is hit one night by bombs and destroyed. His mother, decides the situation in England is

too unstable, and sends Nick to live with his father in Burma, hoping he will be safer living on the family's teak plantation. Shortly after arriving, the Japanese invade Burma and the action begins. This writer, writes to any age and I found the story fascinating and adventurous.

I am using this with our very high 4th grade students and they are loving the book. I found a resource online that is helping them analyze the characters/setting/themes/etc. and learn about foreshadowing and flashback. They are enjoying the story because it isn't just another WWII story about the Nazis. Instead, it is WWII when Japan invaded Burma.

My grandson could hardly wait for this book to arrive! Since its early arrival he has not put it down. The book was in great condition as the seller indicated. I would definitely recommend this seller!

Son did not like this, font was too small for him. He didn't finish it.

VERY WELL DONE...I liked the way it was written, not taking sides and actually telling a history that my grandchildren should know...

Great story for all ages. Teaches interesting history lesson. Wonderful surprise twist at the end!

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