

# WHITE ELEPHANTS: On Yard Sales, Relationships, and Finding What Was Missing by KATIE HAEGELE

“Katie Haegele’s writing is a miracle. No matter how grumpy you’ve gotten, *White Elephants* will inspire you turn your days into adventures again—whether or not that includes looking through weird shit on other people’s lawns.” —**Ariel Gore**, creator of *Hip Mama* and author of *All the Pretty People: Tales of Carob, Shame, and Barbie-Envy*

“This charmingly curious book, a quirky exploration of flea markets, yard sales and love, will have you thinking you are listening to a soothing friend. Perhaps Katie Haegele might be a unique, American version of Sylvia Smith.” —**Tama Janowitz**, author of the *New York Times* Notable Book *Slaves of New York*

“[it’s] interesting because Katie’s expression of her inner life while she finds her treasures is highly compelling. She shares joy over finding weird textbooks to repurpose into stationery, knickknacks with the previous owners’ history attached (or imagined), and vintage clothing whose worth can be ferreted out only by artisan shoppers such as herself, and in the process she reveals just enough about herself to make you fall in love with her.” —**Jenna Freedman**, Zine Librarian, **Barnard College**

White elephants are the odd, old, and discarded things that end up at yard sales and flea markets—and Katie Haegele loves them all. Well, an awful lot of them, anyway. She lives a few blocks from the house she grew up in, and every summer she and her mother scour the neighborhood tag sales, looking for treasure. In this unusual, touching memoir, she chronicles the places they go and the things they find there, describing every detail in her singular, charming voice. In the end she finds more than just ugly table lamps and frilly aprons, ultimately discovering a real friendship with her mother, a deeper connection to her father, whose death left a hole in her life—and even a bit of romance.

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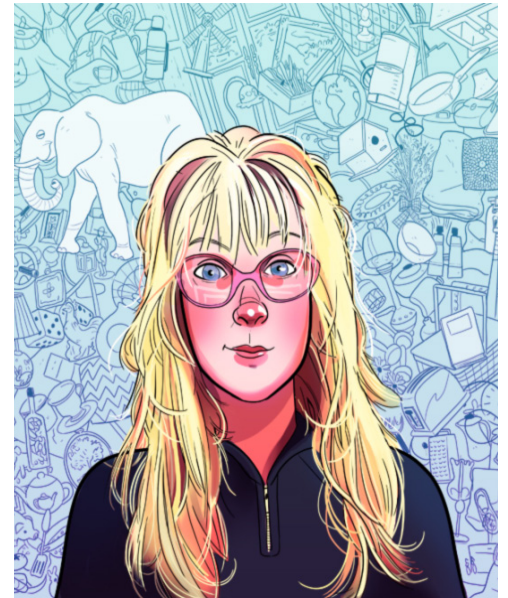
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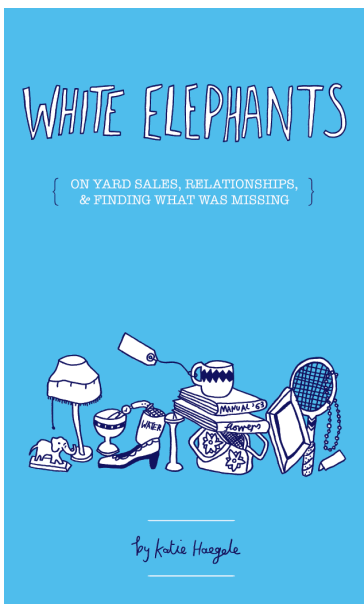
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**Katie Haegele** grew up on the outskirts of Philadelphia and went to college at the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied linguistics. After graduation she began working as a journalist, starting out as the book section intern for the *Philadelphia Weekly*. These days she writes about books for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Comics Journal*, and other outlets, and her personal essays and reported articles have been published in the *Utne Reader*, *Bitch magazine*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, *Adbusters*, and few books. After a few years of working as a writer she began to miss linguistics, but found she didn’t really want to go back to school. So she started writing her zine *The La-La Theory*, a hodge-podge of language facts, oddities, and poems. Since then she has published dozens of zines, including *White Elephants*. At this point making zines — and being part of the worldwide zine community — is one of the most important things in her life.



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