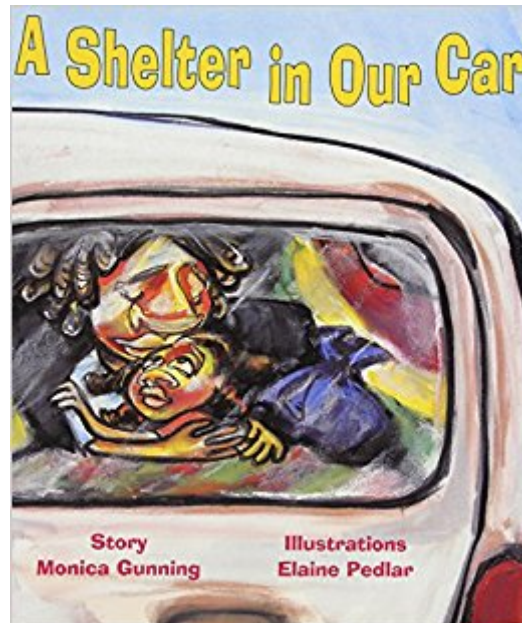




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A Shelter In Our Car



Synopsis

Zettie and her Mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. With Papa gone, Mama can't find a steady job that will sustain them and so they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, she and her mother can meet all challenges. Monica Gunning's moving and authentic story about homelessness in an American city was developed with the help of the Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco. Elaine Pedlar's strong and lively illustrations bring the story to life in vibrant chalk pastel."

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD560L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Lee & Low Books (April 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892393084

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Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #310,274 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #517 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#) #605 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3-After her father died, eight-year-old Zettie and her mother left Jamaica in search of education and a better life in America. They now live in an old car. Zettie's daily routine includes waking up to blaring sirens and flashing lights, washing in cold water in a park rest room, being bullied by boys at school, and feeling hungry and resentful. Spending time with a friend who is also homeless, and a reassuring encounter with a concerned policeman bring comfort at crucial moments, but the girl's life is not an easy one. Not since Maurice Sendak's *We Are All in the Dumps* with Jack and Guy (HarperCollins, 1993) has a picture book dealing with homelessness maintained

such emotional intensity. The illustrations call to mind images by Georges Rouault. Pedlar's figures are defined with thick black lines; exaggerated features and the expressionistic use of color accentuate the family's suffering. In the end, Mama's successful day helping at a Health Fair and the promise of a job lead to a bed and shower in a motel-and hope. Children will be moved by Zettie's plight and relieved that there are options. Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

K-Gr. 3. The kids at school call her Junk Car Zettie. After Papa died in Jamaica, Zettie and Mama came to America, where they now live in the city in the backseat of their car, while Mama tries to go to school and also earn money to pay rent for a room. This picture-book brings close the harsh realities of being homeless, scavenging for food, washing in the park rest room, being harassed by police. The illustrations are in an intensely emotional modernist style with exaggerated facial expressions and body language. The strong, black-outlined figures are scary at times, but then so is the nightmarish reality of being without shelter. At the end of the book, Gunning asks kids to get involved in helping the homeless, and many children will want to talk about the idea with adults close to them. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Yes great story for our Sunday School kids to learn about homelessness a week before our church housed the homeless. The pictures were a bit scary however.

beautiful, deep, emotionally illustrated. a great addition to our Unitarian church's library highlighting social issues from a child's point-of-view.

Used this for my theme this year ,Compassionate Christmas. My students loved it.

Excellent book!

A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+A+

This book although fictional, is also not so fictional. There are thousands of people that are homeless today including many of them children. Yes, many do live in their cars too, the one

possession that might keep them safe. Many live in shelters or with other members of their family, and yes, the streets. Homelessness has many views. The two main characters in this book, Zettie and her Mama, have to do many undignified things just to survive, like washing in the bathroom at the park, and being told to move their car after they have gone to sleep. They also have to trust some others who live on the street and even the police, this too can lead to danger. Mama takes care of Zettie as best as she can and constantly tells and shows her love for her. The story is heart-wrenching and an eye opener to maybe those that do not have to live a life of indignities. The illustrations are done with chalk as cartoon-ish chunky characters. The colors are mainly muted and darker which adds to the overall sadness of the book. However, in the end there is hope for these two which packages the book in a nice tidy bow but for those living a life on the streets, hope can be as little as finding your next meal. The book is targeted to 6+ and much discussion can take place with the reading and rereading of this book. Think about it and read this winner of a book. 5 stars! Disclosure: I received a copy of this book for my open and honest opinion. The views expressed here are 100% my own and may differ with yours. ~Naila Moon

There are many things in this book that resonated with me. I found that this is a moving story that rings true on many levels, and brings the everyday plight of those without shelter or comfort to those who do not know or understand their situation. It made me cry, stayed with me for days after reading it, and made my desire to help more in need even greater than it was before. A well written and deeply moving children's book that even an adult will love. It will bring new levels of compassion to your consciousness.

I heard the author of this book read the story at a Children's Book event and I was really stunned by it. I realized that my almost 5 year old son had no idea that there are people who don't have homes, and I felt rather chagrined about that fact. This story of a girl and her mother who are living in their car as the mother tries to find work and save enough money to rent an apartment was so beautifully done I had tears in my eyes for hours afterwards, and I haven't been able to stop thinking about it. I think it is incredibly important for parents to make our children aware that there are lots of problems in our communities that deserve our attention and that we need to be aware of how others are faring, and not focus solely on the welfare of our families alone. This book does not pull any punches, but it is very tender and focused on the primacy of love between a parent and a child. The illustrations convey the emotional intensity of the story in a unique and eye-catching way. I think this book is a great starting point for any parent who wants help in trying to develop a compassionate

child who is aware of the shortcomings and strengths of his or her community.

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