



The Garbage King

By Elizabeth Laird

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Inspired by the true story of an African childhood lived on the edge of destitution, award-winning Elizabeth Laird's *The Garbage King* takes readers on an unforgettable emotional journey.

When Mamo's mother dies, he is abandoned in the shanties of Addis Ababa. Stolen by a child-trafficker and sold to a farmer, he is cruelly treated. Escaping back to the city, he meets another, very different runaway. Dani is rich, educated - and fleeing his tyrannical father. Together they join a gang of homeless street boys who survive only by mutual bonds of trust and total dependence on each other.

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The Garbage King By Elizabeth Laird Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-The harsh reality that faces countless children in developing nations is confronted head-on in this powerful and moving novel, as is the gross disparity between the haves and have-nots. Set in Ethiopia, it brings together the stories of two very different boys whose lives converge and are changed forever. After his mother dies, Mamo, 13, is tricked by a slaver and sold to a farmer in the country miles away from the only home he has ever known. After months of brutal treatment, he escapes and makes it back to Addis Ababa where he meets Dani, a chubby boy who has spent his life cloistered in the world of privilege. He is a talented writer, but other areas of his studies elude him, leading his strict father to send him away to be disciplined. Dani runs away to avoid this fate and meets up with Mamo. They meet a gang of street children, led by a boy named Million. Street life with this group is difficult and dangerous, but the boys become a family and both their tragedies and triumphs are painted in vivid, authentic, and often horrific detail. Background for the story's inspiration is included in an introduction and an afterword. Readers are sure to become involved in this compelling story, and teachers will find a wealth of inspiration to lead their students in further research.

Genevieve Gallagher, Orange County Public Library, VA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. Laird has lived and worked in Ethiopia, and this contemporary survival story is rooted in the true-life stories of street children she knows in Addis Ababa. Dani is a rich, fat kid, failing at school, who runs away from his bullying dad. Orphan Mamo, kidnapped and sold as a slave to a cruel farmer, escapes and returns to the city. The runaways meet in the city cemetery, where they hide out until they join a gang of homeless kids. Under the direction of their stern leader, the gang members care for one another and share everything, including what they scavenge from the garbage and beg from passers-by. The cast is huge, but the characters are so strongly individualized that it is easy to keep them straight. The ending is a bit too happy, at least for Mamo and Dani, who go home and handle the powerful adults. It's the elemental friendship story of fear and hope that will draw in readers. *Hazel Rochman*

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Review

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Juan McCain:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic

inside park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Garbage King can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Erwin Fast:

The reason why? Because this The Garbage King is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Sunny Weaver:

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Elizabeth Walborn:

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