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Gail Lukasik

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#1557205 in Books 2012-11-09Original language:English 9.00 x .21 x 6.00l, #File Name: 147939421190 pages | File size: 43.Mb

Gail Lukasik : Homeless, In My Own Words: True Stories of Homeless Mothers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homeless, In My Own Words: True Stories of Homeless Mothers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Unique and Truly Great BookBy Roger W. WrightThis book takes you inside the real life of a number of homeless women in a unique format--poetry.An idea I didn't even believe until I experienced it first hand. One doesn't just read this book, one experiences it. It's that good. In the hands of a garden variety writer, this could have been a disaster. But this author is a master and the work succeeds brilliantly. It's

a short read, I literally read it in one sitting. But it captures the rhythm and voices of the women in such a blisteringly powerful way that one is almost grateful that it isn't any longer--because that much soul shattering despair would just be too hard to take. Having had some experience in publishing an oral history of the same population, and having read everything Studs Terkel ever wrote -my standards here are high. And this book exceeds them all. This is both a unique and a truly great book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly Moving By H. Kanar I don't know what that other reviewer was talking about. In the shortest possible view of these narrative poetics he might only have learned the stories of the handful of women whose actual words are quoted here. I expect that other readers, those whose compassion buttons got pushed by such transformative prosody as this, will easily expand upon the words of these few to encompass much and many more. Briefly, the women's descriptions of their lives and the realities they illuminated about their survival strategies moved me to tears over and over. I was gut sick and very, very moved. My only regret about reading this is that I couldn't reach out to them in any meaningful way to ease their burdens, though not a one of them asked for pity or pleaded for anything. Perhaps it was the plain-spoken way they described their daily misery that was the most astonishing. Lukasik did a masterful job editing and allowing their spoken words to become starkly lyrical and mesmerizing. I read it cover to cover. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and realize that many good people are homeless because bad things happened to them ...By Samuel Siklas Having been homeless myself, these real stories can and should open the eyes of someone who has never experienced homelessness for themselves. "Homeless people" are often stigmatized as druggies, drunks and mentally ill. Read this book, if you want to know how tough it is to be homeless, and realize that many good people are homeless because bad things happened to them they had no control over.

Homeless, In My Own Words tells the true stories of nine homeless mothers from the Chicago area. Graphic, honest, and painful--these stories shed light on a segment of the homeless seldom seen or heard. Each woman's poetic monologue reveals the complex set of events that spiraled into her homelessness. Instructive and cautionary, these true tales strike at the heart of homelessness.

"If empathy is the ability to imagine how others feel, Homeless, In My Own Words, is the ultimate empathetic journey of what it truly feels like to be homeless. Gail Lukasik's thought provoking poetry will remain with you for years to come. Having Gail as our Featured Poet was a huge bonus for us." --Bob McKamie, MUTT Online