



Forgotten: Seventeen and Homeless

Melody Carlson , The Navigators

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With absent parents, overdue rent, and no one to turn to, Adele is forced into the hard, cold world of homelessness. While striving to maintain the pretense of a “normal” life, Adele attempts to finish high school, all the while concealing her secret. But is she strong enough to keep up the act?

Forgotten will propel teen readers into a world where promises are broken, life is not fair, and challenges seem unbearable, while still offering assurance that solid faith, loyal friends, and a persistent spirit will prevail.

Forgotten: Seventeen and Homeless Details

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From Reader Review Forgotten: Seventeen and Homeless for online ebook

Paula Phillips says

All Adele ever wanted was a normal life and one where she could be the child and not have to worry about paying the bills, clothing and rent . She could do teens stuff, hang out with her friends and have fun. However, not all of us get that choice and in a way I could relate to Adele as growing up I have had to miss out on things and have helped and still do carry the majority of bills for my family otherwise things would collapse or work out for the worst and life could be like Adele's and many others in the world. Adele's mother is a flighty bird who has bipolar and when she moves Adele to a new neighbourhood , a new school etc she promises Adele this time will be different and so Adele makes a new group of friends but it isn't long till her mother falls back into her old patterns but this time her mother disappears and takes off - she has never done this before. Soon Adele finds herself homeless with nowhere to go and finds a job and somewhere to sleep. Can Adele though keep up the facade as she attends school and can she keep up with the front she has created for her friends ? What will happen though when they discover the truth about Adele ? Will they dump her and prove that their friendship was superficial or will Adele discover who her "real" friends are through this hard time ? Find out all this and more in this heart-wrenching story that will get you thinking about those who are "really" in the situation covered in Forgotten. As in America according to statistics on <http://www.dosomething.org/actnow/tip...> - there is 1.7 Million homeless teens in America.

Brenda says

I am not sure how to write the review for this book. On the one hand this was a book I couldn't put down. The main character was very easy to relate to. When Adele's mom just walks off and leaves her your heart can't help but break for this young lady.

Adele is a very determined young lady who has more often than not had to play the parental role in her family. So when her mom gets a job in a new town she hopes things might be changing. She starts her senior year at a new school where she is actually befriended by one of the popular cliques, a group of kids who have come from money and don't have to worry. Before long Adele's mom quits her job and starts bringing a druggie home. Adele becomes consumed with keeping her new friends from knowing the truth about her home life, and when Adele's mom abandons her and then Adele is kicked out of her apartment she isn't sure how she will keep up with the charade.

Can Adele survive and finish her school year, and will she finally figure out that there are people willing to help if she will only let them?

I loved this story actually read in in about an hour, I found it to be a real thought provoking story, the story of homelessness and how people actually become homeless is something we don't often think about.

Now for the problem I had with this book. What happened to Adele's mom? We aren't told. Also what about Adele's dad? He is barely touched on. But the greatest issue is how the book ended. Throughout the book the story seems so believable, you can relate to what's going on in Adele's life, but then the author wraps the story up with an ending that really wasn't believable at all, and does it in a couple of pages.

Overall I am glad that I read this book and will find a teen to pass it on to.

I was provided a copy of this book to review by the publisher but in no way does it alter my opinion of this book.

VLynch says

I read this last night, and what a heart breaking yet sweet story. I really wanted to reach through the book and hug Adele and bring the sweetie into my home. Melody Carlson did an excellent job of writing the story so the reader felt emotional for Adele and anger towards Adele's Mother. This is one of Melody's best books. I recommend this for all Moms and daughters. Gives them something to talk about and bond over. Well done Melody...

The BookWhisperer says

If you are not a believer or seeker of the Lord this may not particularly be the book for you. If you are a believer this is an awesome reminder of the power of the Lord, and if you are a seeker this is an awesome opportunity for you to be moved. It is a chance at beginning to understand the Lord, and where he might just fit into your life. Forgotten is actually in the young adult genre, but I feel that this is a read for any Christian. This is an excellent example to the younger generation of His Power, as well as, a look at the life of this incredible 17 year old that finds herself in a nightmare. Over night Adele is stranded no home, no money, and no mother. I find this story to be heartfelt and gut wrenching. As a parent I was overcome by some much emotion toward Adele and her mother. At times such as these, it is hard to sit back and believe that there is a plan. Our responsibility is to believe in God's plan, and pray that he will look out for this young girl in her time of need. As if being stranded and alone was not enough, this story continues a downward spiral that leaves her without her job, her savings, and the vehicle she had resorted to sleeping in. I never thought that this story could get any worse, but it appears I was very very wrong. Not only did that story tremendously move me, but I found myself reflecting on the story and relating it to my own life. While I am not a seventeen year old, nor am I homeless I believe that out of this very complex story everyone will find a way to reflect on their relationship with our Lord and Savior. I believe that you will find yourself one step closer to fully understanding your relationship with the Lord.

Christy says

This novel shares a heart-wrenching story about a teenager with a loser mom and a runaway dad. While most of us don't have to deal with the drama of deadbeat parents, we probably even less have thoughts of having to live on the street or out of our cars. I cannot imagine what it must be like to be totally alone and homeless, I really give Adele a lot of credit for sticking it out as long as she did before turning to the only One who would be able to change her life.

The biggest lesson that I took away from this book was that lies always find you out in the end. In Adele's case, one of her "so-called" friends discovered the truth on her own, leaving Adele to fess up to her lies and the consequences. And poor girl, just when she decided to start being honest, she got another realization of just how unfair life sometimes is.

The only thing I didn't like about this book was the ending. I didn't like that it ended up "several months

later," and instead, would've liked some of the first portion of the book to have been shortened just a bit to allow for a more fleshed out conclusion.

Other than that, I thought this was another excellent book perfect for teenagers that's got a lot of lessons on honesty and genuineness. I'm anxious to see what the rest of the Secrets series has in store.

Enni says

I don't quite know how to rate this book. It wasn't hard to feel for the character Adele and the build up through out the story was done very well but the end was really disappointing to me.

Not because Adele found help where she least expected it but because it was so rushed. We never found out what happened to Adele's mother and I would have liked to get more of Adele starting to trust other people and open up and share her fears and worries.

What I liked about the book is that it made you think about how easy it is for a person to end up in a situation like that and become homeless. It also made me think again about volunteering somewhere to help kids in need.

Carissa says

Adele's mom is bipolar. And there's nothing wrong with that. It's a genuine illness that can be treated with proper medication, but can still cause disruptions. It's not really the fault of the individual, it's just life. But for Adele, she wishes for the umpteenth time that her mom could be normal and at least hold a job. She has her college education in a solid field, could bring in a good paycheck, but she just can't focus. All of Adele's hopes when her mom relocated them for her new job go flying out the window when her mom disappears on her with a new boyfriend. She literally abandons her daughter and the facade that Adele has created at her new school, reinventing herself as one of the cool kids, is suddenly in jeopardy. She can't pay the rent, but it kills her to think of losing the new friends she's just made, especially Jayden who she can't help but notice resembles Jude Law. So she keeps up the pretense. At least she has a job, albeit not one that pays enough. But the day comes when the eviction notice is hammered on the door to her condo and her key no longer fits in the lock. Forgotten, living out of her mom's boyfriend's equally abandoned van, Adele tries to make the best of a bad situation, being homeless at seventeen. Is God even listening, and if He is, does he care?

I finally got around to reading the 1st book in Melody Carlson's *Secrets* and I'm impressed with the strong start she made. The only weak link in the series is *Deceived*, book #5 I think, about the cults. At least so far. Adele is a tough kid and while she might be down and out, there are certain things to which she will not stoop. And just when hopelessness starts to steal her soul, God steps in and gives her a way out. That's the beauty of this series and while some might find it cliché, I do believe God works in the lives of the downhearted and mistreated. He truly cares and Adele finds that when she reaches the end of her rope, there are people, loving people from God, who are there to catch her when she falls. This book teaches young people to care about those around them and not always jump to the worst conclusion about their peers. When someone is down and out, help them instead of trample them further into the mud. Well done, Melody, another winner!

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“With MIA parents, overdue rent, and no one to turn to, Adele is forced out of her home. She strives to maintain the pretense of a “normal” life while struggling to finish high school, all the while concealing that she is homeless. But is she strong enough to keep up the act?

Every teenage girl has a secret. And every teenage girl loves hearing someone else’s secret. But some secrets are big enough to detour, derail, or even destroy a young person’s life. Each of Melody Carlson’s Secrets novels will propel readers into a world where promises are broken, life is not fair, and challenges can make or break them, while ultimately helping readers discover that solid faith, loyal friends, and a persistent spirit will see them through.”

Series: Book #1 in the “Secrets” series.

Spiritual Content- A couple Prayers; Church going & a sermon; A mission home & talking to a pastor; Talks about God, trusting, & peace; ‘H’s are not capital when referring to God; Adele isn’t so sure about God, but doesn’t think He believes in her; Mentions of church & sermons; A few mentions of praying; A couple mentions of a Bible & a picture of Jesus; A couple mentions of Christians; A mention of a youth group; A mention of Sunday School;

*Note: A few mentions of karma; A mention of a foster home “from hell”.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘cruddy’, a ‘duh’, a ‘freaking’, an ‘idiot’, a form of ‘wimp’, a ‘witch’, and seven forms of ‘stupid’; Sarcasm & eye rolling; Mentions of curses (said, not written); Thinking about suicide & dying (twice, but she doesn’t do it); Trying to fit in, jealousy, & lying; Many mentions of smoking dope, drug dealers, & highs (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of Adele’s father who left (she calls him a “deadbeat dad”); Mentions of Adele’s parents who are divorced; Mentions of alcohol, drinking, & drunks; Mentions of cigarettes & smoking; A few mentions of a serial killer; A mention of gambling; A mention of a middle-figure salute;

*Note: Mentions of brand names (Banana Republic, Gap, Nine West, Express, Ralph Lauren, Valentino, Gucci, Channel, and Prada); A mention of Starbucks.

Sexual Content- two barely-above-not-detailed kisses, and two boarder-line barely-above-not-detailed // semi-detailed kisses; Remembering a kiss (barely-above-not-detailed); Hand holding & embraces (barely-above-not-detailed); Adele mentions that she was nearly raped twice while in foster care; two ‘hooker’s and three forms of ‘hot’; Mentions of “working girls” & prostitutes; Mentions of hand holding & embraces; Mentions of dating, crushes, & jealousy; Mentions of homecoming & dates; Mentions of flirting; Mentions of a girl changing & bathing in a public restroom (no details besides a mention of her being topless); A couple mentions of a girl’s boyfriend moving in with her; A mention of creeps expecting sex from teen girls & a girl trading her body for money; A mention of skanky invitation; A mention of pole dancing;

*Note: A few mentions of anorexia & diets; A couple mentions of figures & Dolly Parton’s chest.

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I've had a hard time writing this review because, well, who would want to give a negative review? I've not read this author before and as stated earlier, this genre would not have otherwise interested me.

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## **Michelle Padrelanan says**

My children and I have always liked books by Melody Carlson. I wrote a review of her TrueColors series in the past and we have been looking forward to reading more of her works.

Forgotten – Seventeen and Homeless is the story of Adele Porter – an intelligent seventeen year old with a bipolar mom. She’s been subjected to her Mom’s irresponsible behavior for years and has learned to take care of herself. Things start to look up when her mom finds a new job accompanied by a move to a nice condo and a new school.

Adele thinks that she can start afresh in her new school. Thus she starts hanging out with the rich kids pretending to be rich and privileged just like them. Everything seems to go well until she comes home one day and finds that her mom has left her all alone. She is homeless. What will she do? How can she survive? How can she avoid being taken to a foster home? Can she keep on pretending to her friends? And finally, how does she find God through all her problems?

As with all of Melody Carlson’s books, Forgotten – Seventeen and Homeless is easy enough to read. You can sit down one afternoon and finish her books in one sitting. Which means that once you begin reading, it’s hard to put it down. The situations that Adele finds herself in compels you to keep on reading and reading. Adele Porter’s character is fully developed in this story. However, little is said of the other supporting characters. Despite this, I don’t find this to be a negative feature of the book.

Some reviewers say that the ending seems a bit rushed and abrupt. I don’t feel this is so. As a Christian, I know that this kind of ending is not rare. I experienced myself how God works in totally unexpected ways. What this book is saying that our efforts alone is not enough. With God in our lives, there are really ways in which God makes things work out for us.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from NavPress Publishers as part of their Blogger Review program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising

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## **Bella Rose Jones says**

i really enjoy these books. easy reads & about scary real life situations.

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## **LadyCalico says**

Even though I am a wee bit past my teens, I really loved this book and was glad that it only took a few hours to read because I couldn't put it down. I cried two or three times during this book, which is something I never do. The world is full of lonely, throw-away people of all ages and they may be included as secondary characters, but it is rare that a book is told from their point of view. This story shows how subsistence living allows no room for error or the whole shaky structure of life collapses like a house of cards.

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## **Elisabeth says**

Let me first say I've enjoyed other books by Melody Carlson. I loved "A Mile in my Flip flops." I don't usually read teen fiction, but I've also enjoyed the Carter House Girls series. This book just wasn't on par with those.

While I found the premise of the story heart wrenching and eye-opening, there was just too much to tell in the span of the short book. It also felt like the author may have been late for a deadline when she wrote the ending. Much of the book focused on a very short period of time and the week leading to the dance was given pages and pages of details. This is the style of writing I'm used to from Melody. There were a number of ways the author could have added details and developed characters, Genevieve, her friend at the nursing home could have been developed more, for example. The mother Character (Carlene) was so evil she felt one dimensional. And she's not even dealt with in the ending. It's like she never existed in the book at all.

But by far the most glaring example of this failure to develop plot lines was the ending. A few months of a huge transition is summed up in a couple of pages. I did not understand why the ending was given the bum's rush. There were so many questions I had when I finished reading this book, what happened to Cybil? Where is the mother? For that matter where is the father? Everything just seems to tie up in a neat little package and it seemed a bit unrealistic to me. I love the redemption story and learning to lean on others, but for everything to just work out perfectly seems a tad unreasonable. God is great and he can turn your life around, but to a non-Christian going through trouble and turning to God, they might expect everything will all of a sudden turn around and become sunshine and rainbows, and that's very misleading to put it mildly. God promised we would have troubles in this world; Jesus is to help us get through them, not to clear a wide smooth path.

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## **Tara Chevestt says**

A very well written YA book that I think adults will enjoy as well. The first person POV works great for this type of tale.

Adele is seventeen and her mom is bipolar. Her mom gets a new job and swears her life is going to change and so they move to a new town. Adele actually starts thinking maybe life will be good from now on. She makes friends with the "in" crowd at school, starts dating a cute guy, and all that high school stuff.

But her mom loses her job and abandons her and soon Adele is living out of an old black van trying to pay her cell phone and keep a job as well as her snooty rich friends. Everything goes to hell in a handbasket so to speak. Soon Adele doesn't even care about maintaining pretenses. She is just trying to survive.

The last 5 percent suddenly decided to try to convert me to Christianity tho. All of a sudden it is "god this" and "god that" and of course, upon finding church, everything suddenly goes wonderfully for Adele. If this is Christian fiction, it was not advertised as such the day I downloaded it. Hopefully, someone has remedied that by now.

Besides that, it loses a star for Adele be TSTL sometimes. Um, you leave all your savings in cash format in

your van??? Hello?

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