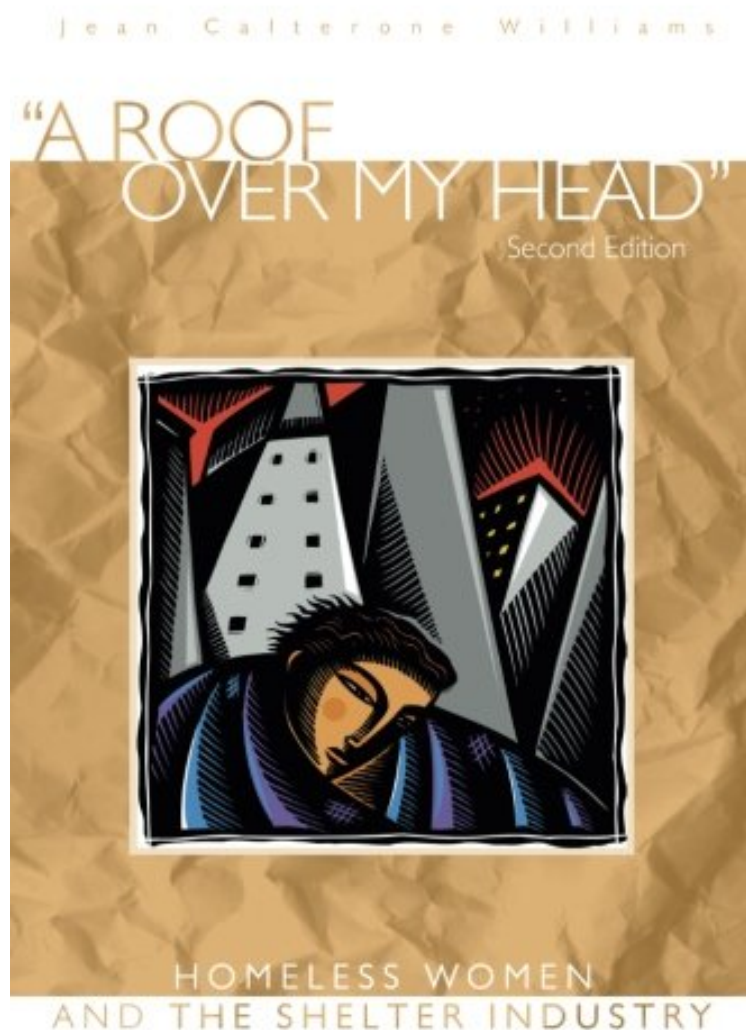


(Read now) A Roof Over My Head, Second Edition: Homeless Women and the Shelter Industry

A Roof Over My Head, Second Edition: Homeless Women and the Shelter Industry

Jean Calterone Williams

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Jean Calterone Williams : A Roof Over My Head, Second Edition: Homeless Women and the Shelter Industry before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Roof Over My Head, Second Edition: Homeless Women and the Shelter Industry:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very Important Book! Ignore the "New Right" CriticismBy A Customer"A Roof Over My Head" is an extremely important book! Williams not only delineates the endemic problems

of the shelter industry and many of the myths surrounding the cultural construction of homelessness, but she also puts forth viable political and institutional changes that could be adopted to correct many of these failures. Williams shines a light in the darker corners of our culture of homelessness and the shelter industry and she shows how prominent physical, emotional, and sexual abuse are at this point systemic, and part of the general makeup of these social and institutional locations. She outlines the ways in which these forms of coercion participation in the perpetuation of the problems that homeless women face, and homelessness itself. Please ignore the other review, which is driven completely by an ideological agenda, typified by the religious "New Right," which wants to assert that oppression, abuse, and coercion are all "justified" by "moral" assertions that blame the victim--mainly through reinforcing stereotypes. Saying that Williams's book is part of "a virus" of the "abdication of responsibility" is just plain hogwash. "A Roof Over My Head" is the exact opposite of that, as it calls for us to take responsibility for the social and institutional apparatus that we've constructed which works often times to perpetuate a cycle of abuse, dependency, and seemingly inescapable homelessness. I recommend buying this book and seeing what changes you can make in your local community. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Book About Our Own Humanity By A Customer I found myself returning to this book night after night with great interest, for the voices and stories of the homeless women, unique, gripping, and ultimately haunting, make this well-researched and articulate book a real page-turner. This book is a must read for anyone who has experienced the agony of seeing a homeless person on the street and the futility of not knowing what to do about it. A Roof Over My Head combines extensive interviews with homeless women, shelter case-workers and the housed (that's you and me, people who have roofs over our heads) to present a holistic and enlightening assessment of the causes of homelessness and also potential solutions our society could embrace. A Roof Over My Head should be read in classrooms and in book groups as well as in those thousands of private living rooms that can create a grass roots movement. Ultimately, this is a book about our own humanity. 1 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Just doesn't get it By Patti A. Koerner I gave the book two stars because the author makes a valid case for the need for battered women's shelters and homeless women's shelters to stop working at cross purposes to each other and recognize that the two conditions are often interrelated. Other than that, the book is just another symptom of a virus which has infected our society for decades, that of abdication of personal responsibility. Ms. Williams writes circles around the fact that most of the women in the book became homeless through a combination of character flaws and personal choices. This little bit of political correctness is the 800 lb. gorilla in the living room that everyone tip toes around but no one wants to confront. Why, Williams doesn't even think they should be expected to exhibit basic common decencies such as gratitude for what is done for and given to them, something I was taught from my very earliest childhood! She complains that the shelters treat their clients as if they aren't able to handle their own lives. She needs to wake up. Why does she think they're there in the first place? What it boils down to is this: Making excuses for antisocial behavior, allowing abdication of responsibility for personal life choices and giving handouts without expecting even a minimum of decency and responsibility on the part of the recipient is destructive on both an individual and societal level. Ms. Williams just doesn't get it and her book is NOT recommended.

Based upon extensive ethnographic data, *A Roof Over My Head* examines the lives of homeless women who cope with domestic violence, low-income housing shortages, and poverty. The author draws upon interviews with homeless women, interviews with housed people, and, finally, evaluations of shelter services, philosophies, and policies to get at the causes and social constructions of homelessness. *A Roof Over My Head* is a groundbreaking study that unveils the centrality of abuse and poverty in homeless women's lives and outlines ways in which societal responses can and should be more effective. The second edition explores recent attempts to integrate homeless and battered women's shelters and recent research on domestic violence as a cause of homelessness. It contains a new introduction that analyzes the most recent homeless policy developments and paints a picture of the homeless population today. With updated statistics and policy information throughout, the second edition of *A Roof Over My Head* illustrates why ending homelessness in the United States continues to present a thorny and complex challenge.

"...absolutely compelling and convincing...It deserves to be read at all levels of society - from the grass roots to the highest levels of policy-making. It might even make a difference in the ways American society views and treats some of its most vulnerable citizens." Ruth Sidel, author of *Keeping Women and Children Last: The Plight of Poor Women in Affluent America*