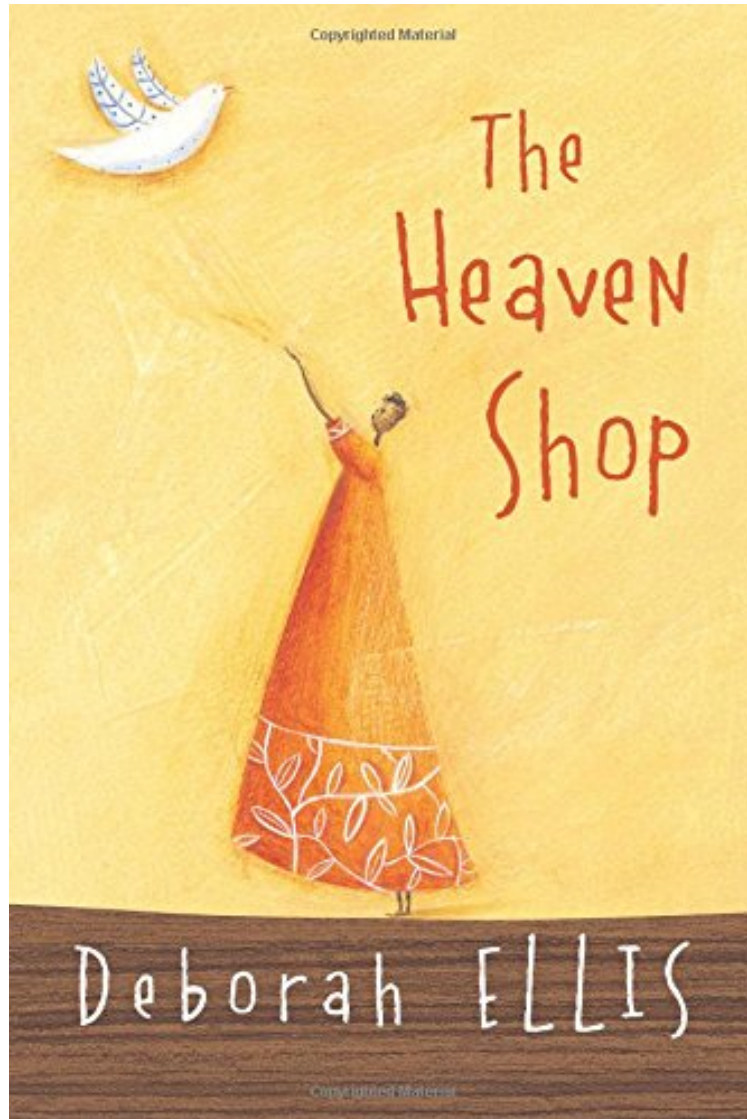


The Heaven Shop

Deborah Ellis

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Deborah Ellis : The Heaven Shop before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heaven Shop:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the best books I've ever read about life in southern AfricaBy Sonia JonesThis is one of the best books I've ever read about life in southern Africa, where many people struggle every day of their lives to find food and shelter. Deborah Ellis creates memorable characters who interact with one another in many different ways, running the gamut from sheer cruelty to deep compassion and heartfelt love. The book captures many aspects of the universal human condition, and leaves the reader feeling thoughtful, inspired, and

daring to hope.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. heart wrenchingBy A. S. PriceWhen I started the book, I thought it was a bit sappy. But within the first 30 pages it quickly turns from sappy to heart wrenching. Binti, a Malawi teenager, faces major changes to her way of life, transitioning from a carefree "radio star" to an effectual slave. Though this book is a fairly simple read, the content the author deals with is intense. The book is focused around the issue of AIDS in Africa, misconceptions about AIDS, how AIDS is spread, and the inadequacies of the community in dealing with the issues AIDS presents. I think it is a great read to help students see the faces off AIDS as opposed to just the statistics about AIDS.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read bookBy Jackie HouchinOh, my gosh! What a heartrending book about a young girl's plight in Malawi, Africa, where 25% of the populations of the capital city is infected with aids. It's a gentle, coming of age story, but it doesn't hide reality. If you plan to travel to Africa, or even if not, read this book. You may be heartbroken, but the truth and the love of this one girl is amazing. It's very short, some could read it in a single sitting.

There is a lion in our village, and it is carrying away our children. At her father's funeral, Binti's grandmother utters the words that no one in Malawi wants to hear. Binti's father and her mother before him, dies of AIDS. Binti, her sister, and brother are separated and sent to the home of relatives who can barely tolerate their presence. Ostracized by their extended family, the orphans are treated like the lowest servants. With her brother far away and her sister wallowing in her own sorrow, Binti can hardly contain her rage. She, Binti Phirim, was once a child star of a popular radio program. Now she is scraping to survive. Binti always believed she was special, now she is nothing but a common AIDS orphan. Binti Phiri is not about to give up. Even as she clings to hope that her former life will be restored, she must face a greater challenge. If she and her brother and sister are to reunited, Binti Phiri will have to look outside herself and find a new way to be special. Compelling and uplifting, *The Heaven Shop*, is a contemporary novel that puts a very real face on the African AIDS pandemic, which to-date has orphaned more than 11 million African children. Inspired by a young radio performer the author met during her research visit to Malawi, Binti Phiri is a compelling character that readers will never forget. Awards and Nominations: Ontario Library Association's Golden Oak Award winner 2006 Winner of the 2005 Jane Addams Children's Book Award in the category of Honor Books for Older Children Shortlisted for the 2006 Alberta Children's Choice Book Award A Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards Honour Book for 2006 Foreword Magazine 2004 Book of the Year Award finalist A Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA) 2005 Honor Book for Older Readers A Canadian Children's Book Centre Our Choice 2005 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award for Young Adult/Middle Reader Books finalist

From School Library JournalGrade 6-9When 13-year-old Binti Phiri's coffin-making father dies, a grandmother she hardly knows says what no one in Malawi likes to admit: the man, like his wife, died of AIDS. Now orphaned, Binti and her siblings are sent to relatives far from home. A Cinderella-like existence with an uncle whose family ostracizes them and steals their money proves so intolerable that her older sister runs away. Binti, too, escapes and makes her way to her grandmother's village. There she discovers her Gogo surrounded by children, cousins and pretend cousins, all dealing with the effects of the epidemic. A local AIDS activist eventually finds Binti's brother, in jail, and her sister, working as a prostitute. Reunited, the young people open their own coffin shop. The author's travel in the area informs her work, but the message, though important, threatens to overwhelm the story. Binti is a well-developed character, but the others and the events of their lives seem to have been introduced in service to plot; they don't come alive the way the Afghans do in Ellis's "Breadwinner" trilogy (Groundwood) or the way the AIDS victims and their relatives do in Alan Stratton's *Chanda's Secret* (Annick, 2004). Readers with an interest in faraway places won't mind, though; they will cheer as Binti, self-centered and self-important when life is good, learns through adversity and through the model of her grandmother to think and behave more generously. Teachers and librarians looking for fiction about sub-Saharan Africa will find this title a useful addition.Kathleen Isaacs, Edmund Burke School, Washington, DC Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistGr. 5-8. Like Allan Stratton's *Chanda's Secrets* [BKL J1 04], but for a younger audience, this is a poignant story of a child caught up in the AIDS crisis in southern Africa. Binti, 13, lives in a city in Malawi, attends a private church school, and stars in a weekly radio show. Her mother is dead, and then her father dies. No one talks about why until her tough grandmother, Gogo, announces that they died of AIDS. Binti is taken in by cruel relatives, her sister becomes a prostitute, and her brother lands in prison, but they finally reunite with Gogo in a poor rural community. The plot is contrived, and Binti speaks like a Western child at times. But Ellis, who has written about children in crisis in Afghanistan, Israel, and Palestine, and visited Malawi, creates a vivid sense of the place and characters that are angry, kind, brave, and real. The facts about AIDS--the statistics, denial, discrimination, and ignorance--drive the story. Proceeds from book sales go to UNICEF. Hazel RochmanCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Deborah Ellis always tackles difficult issues, so *The Heaven Shop*, a powerful and passionate novel about AIDS in Africa, should not surprise her readers. But what is exceptional about Ellis's story is how uncompromising she continues to be... *The Heaven Shop* never gets strident, but it certainly offers readers a clear sense of the helplessness that African children and young adults face in confronting HIV/AIDS. What the novel does best is offer a

human face to the child victims. Binti, like Parvana (the heroine of Ellis's Breadwinner trilogy) before her, is a plucky, high-spirited heroine whom young readers will take to their hearts... a groundbreaking novel that should be in classroom libraries." -- Quill and Quire "Readers with an interest in faraway places... will cheer at Binti, self-centered and self-important when life is good, learns through adversity and through the model of her grandmother to think and behave more generously." -- School Library Journal