



Librarian on the Roof! A True Story

M.G. King , Stephen Gilpin (Illustrator)

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When RoseAleta Laurell begins her new job at the Dr. Eugene Clark Library in Lockhart, Texas, she is surprised that the children of the town think the library is for adults. She vows to raise the money for a children's section and spends a week living and working on the library roof, even surviving a dangerous storm. With the help of the entire town, RoseAleta raises over \$39,000 from within the community and across the country.

Today if you look through the front window of the Eugene Clark Library, you will see shelves stacked full with children's books and tables and chairs just the right size. You will see artwork on the walls, and a row of busy computers. Best of all, you will always find crowds of children who love to read and learn inside the walls of the oldest library in Texas.

Librarian on the Roof! A True Story Details

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From Reader Review Librarian on the Roof! A True Story for online ebook

Angie says

What a fantastic story about an intrepid librarian. As a librarian, I love these kinds of stories and this one is pretty good. The story is quick and I think kids will enjoy it. I love the fact that it is based on a true story...even if that does mean we shelve it in the nonfiction section instead of with the picture books! I thought the illustrations really did justice to the story as well. Good choice. 2012-13 Missouri Show Me Award Nominee.

James Bailey says

This book is based on the true story of RoseAleta Laurell. RoseAleta was disappointed in the lack of resources at the library for children so she decided to stay on the roof until enough money was raised to update the library.

Cynthia Egbert says

Not gonna lie. This one brought on some tears. I love this story and I love this woman! It just gets me so charged up to read of people with that kind of passion about anything, but ESPECIALLY ABOUT CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY. Don't think of this as a children's book, this is one that everyone should read.

Adams' Country Retreat says

What RoseAleta Laurell did for this beautiful Library in Texas was spectacular! In 1989, she became the Director and decided to raise money for the children's section. In this book you will find out exactly what she did and how she did it. A true story about a woman that wouldn't give up until she had reached her goal!

Dolly says

This story describes the lengths to which one librarian was willing to go to raise money for her library. When RoseAleta came to the Dr. Eugene Clark Library, she really livened it up, but realized that she needed more funds than were available to create a space that was appropriate and inviting to children.

She certainly took matters into her own hands and inspired the town to contribute to such a worthy cause. The narrative is short enough to keep a child's attention and fun to read aloud. The illustrations complement the story nicely and really show RoseAleta's determination. We really enjoyed reading this book together.

Sarah says

This book is just okay. Readers will admire the determination of the librarian RoseAleta, but it doesn't really excite me in any way.

When RoseAleta was hired as a new librarian at the Dr. Eugene Lark Library in Lockhart, Texas, she discovered that the library was very underused by the people in town (wouldn't she have learned this during pre-interview sleuthing about where she was going to interview?). The current staff seems generally apathetic, so she brings a new energy to the library personnel. When nothing she does-participates in parades, etc.-brings in children or adults, she re-evaluates the children's department and realizes that they need to update the furniture, computers, books, and more.

Of course, upgrades like these take money, and, of course, the library didn't have any money to spare. So RoseAleta endeavors to camp out on the roof of the library until 40,000 dollars is raised for the children's department. (Again, wouldn't she have gotten an idea of what the library's collection and budget were when she interviewed?).

All works out, happy ending, the library gets the money it needed to update the children's department, it is a busy place now, yadda yadda.

I understand that a suspension of belief is needed (maybe) for a story like this to succeed without having readers feel the need to ask questions like mine, but, like I said, I just can't get excited for this book.

I hope she got a raise after all she did for her library!

Mrspan4ever says

I just read this book to three fifth grade classes, and they loved it! The teachers were impressed with it as well and everybody liked that it was an AR book:) I have only been working at the library for four months, and am inspired to be an awesome one just like the character in the book!

Rebecca Douglass says

When I saw this book I just had to have it. RoseAleta Laurell is a librarian after my own heart, and one the Ninja Librarian would be proud to call a colleague! The story is pretty simple, and fully summed up in the blurb, and it's as delightful as it sounds. It is non-fiction, but reads like a flight of the author's imagination, and is charmingly told and wonderfully illustrated. I very much enjoyed Stephen Gilpin's illustrations, and thought they complemented the story perfectly.

There is a full page (for the adults) at the beginning which tells the true story of RoseAleta Laurell's efforts to revive the library in Lockhart, Texas in 2000. I can only laud her dedication!

Recommendation:

I first recommend this for every librarian I know, because it's just wonderful. But I'll also recommend for anyone, adult or child, who loves books or loves their library.

Viju says

Its a picture book

The story is ok for kids. Teaches about perseverance and determination even against opposition even if you are the only one doing something.

I did not realize going into this book that it was a children's picture book and that's why my expectations and reality didn't match. But still this book can definitely be read for all that I said above and indeed the illustrations are wonderfully done.

Jennifer says

A fun retelling of a true story about a brave librarian who goes up on the library roof to raise awareness and to raise funds to improve the library, even braving fierce stormy weather. The children I read this to were captivated by the story, and also very worried about the librarian's safety.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

Well, I never heard of this woman, RoseAleta Laurell, and her unusual efforts to raise money for the children's room of the library in Lockhart, Texas (the oldest library in Texas) until I read this book. I'm so glad King has retold this story! Wish I'd thought of her fundraising solution! Stephen Gilpin's illustrations lend just a touch of humor and excitement to the story, perfectly matching the character of RoseAleta. Makes me proud to be a librarian! Very inspirational. It should be recommended reading for all librarians, especially aspiring library directors!

Christina Potter Bieloh says

This is a wonderful inspiring story about a librarian. It is a great example of what one person CAN accomplish! We enjoyed reading it together!

Stephanie says

I Love this beautiful ode to librarians especially to children's librarians everywhere! I can't believe I am just seeing this book now!

Jamie says

A true-story of RoseAleta Laurell, librarian extraordinaire, who took matters into her own hands and brought

her community together in the process. Inspiring! The illustrations were too digitized for my taste.

Bill Baumann says

This is an inspiring and true story that will, in time, become a classic on the shelves of libraries in every town and city in Texas and hopefully, throughout our country. The story is simple and easy for children to understand--a dedicated, loving librarian sees a need and throws her heart and soul into filling that need. Casting her personal safety aside, she exposes both her person and dignity to the winds and has herself put on the roof of a small town library to "raise the profile" of the historic library's plight. At the end of the day she makes that library what it should have been all along: a "Peoples' Place." This is a fine story, well told by a charming, talented and very very promising young author. The book is beautifully illustrated. That is a winning combination in anyone's book!
