



# Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People

*Dennis Cardiff*

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## **Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People** Dennis Cardiff

Writing about the homeless and helping the homeless, has given my life a purpose that it didn't have before. Documenting their stories will, I hope, introduce them to the public in a non-threatening way. Some panhandlers look intimidating, but that disappears when one sees them laugh.

A typical day for me involves taking the bus and walking two blocks to work. I pass Joy's spot every day. I usually sit and talk with her for twenty to thirty minutes. Chester and Hippo may drop by to chat.

Most afternoons, depending on weather, I walk two blocks to the park where the group of panhandlers varies in size from two to twenty or more. They don't panhandle at the park. Like a soap opera, every day is different; some scenarios will carry over a few days or weeks. People will disappear for weeks or months due illness, rehab programs or incarceration.

When I met Joy I was going through an emotional crisis. Meeting her and her friends – worrying about them and whether or not they would be able to eat and find a place to sleep – took my mind off my problems, that then, seemed insignificant. It was truly a life changing experience.

## **Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People Details**

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## From Reader Review Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People for online ebook

### Bob Rich says

Sometimes bleak, sometimes even terrifying, the stories told by street people reveal two sides of human nature: the savagery of “civilization” that puts some into hardship, danger and humiliation -- and the decency, compassion and caring that is equally a part of who we can choose to be.

Dennis has been spending his lunch breaks from work talking to the strays of the city, because he gets a more interesting conversation. He had experienced bankruptcy and losing his home in the past, so he can identify with these people who are now where he could easily have been. He ends up doing voluntary work, as well as being, without realizing, a bit of a therapist and social worker with them.

Much of the power of the stories is in the simplicity of the language. These are accounts of his memory of what people said, and that's it. You see his friends as... just people, with strengths and weaknesses like anyone else. They are on the streets for a variety of reasons, including drugs and alcohol. It's clear that, while their lives are bleak and full of hardship, they are not any less happy than those materially better off. Dennis gives a wonderful picture of those spat out by society, giving them personality, dignity and acceptance.

However, the strengths of the presentation also lead to a weakness: repetitiveness. Day to day, the details may change for Dennis's friends, but it's more of the same. By giving an accurate, unedited, unvarnished account, he necessarily has to repeat himself. A day to day diary of the average suburban family lacks excitement. A day to day diary of any other group just has to be much the same.

So, I was entertained and inspired by the start of the book. I got to know the key people like Joy, and wished them well in their travails. However, after awhile the story dragged on. All the same, the inspirational nature of the book remains. You could thoroughly improve your wellbeing, the meaning of your life, by copying Dennis.

A generous portion of the proceeds from the sale of these books goes toward helping the homeless. So, do yourself a favor. Spend the few dollars it takes to buy the book (and its companions), and then follow Dennis's example. The more you give, the more you get, and I mean giving of your essence rather than money. This doesn't mean you need to associate with homeless people, although that is a worthwhile activity. But find some way you can be of benefit to others, and to make this planet a better place for its inhabitants.

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### Grady says

'People are strangers only until you meet them. We are all the same, we seek happiness and an end to suffering.'

Canadian author Dennis Cardiff has a heart as big as all outdoors. He seems to be a pretty selfless guy as he doesn't provide much personal resume on which to base a beginning to read his book and he contributes a portion of the proceeds to supporting the homeless. From references within his writing it seems he lives in Toronto and spends his walk to work each day talking to the street folk he has gathered into his circle of

friends.

The book is a series of conversations with and about the homeless people he encounters. Cardiff is also a poet and he generously sprinkles some of his poems through out the book that spans eighteen months of experience - growth, laughter, kindness, endless biographical information, and simply people who have no home but the street seeking some sense of dignity and understanding from those who have homes.

Early on in his book he lets us know how this concept originated: `2010 - How It Began - My lungs ached, as frost hung in the bitterly cold December morning air, making breathing difficult. I trudged in the falling snow toward the building where I work, in one of the city's grey, concrete, office tower canyons. I dodged other pedestrians, also trying to get to work on time, I noticed a woman seated cross-legged on the sidewalk with her back against a building wall. A snow-covered Buddha, wrapped in a sleeping bag, shivering in the below freezing temperature. I guessed her to be in her forties. Everything about her seemed round. She had the most angelic face, sparkling blue eyes and a beautiful smile. A cap was upturned in front of her. I thought, There but for the grace of God go I. Her smile and blue eyes haunted me all day. In the past I've been unemployed, my wife and I were unable to pay our mortgage and other bills, we went through bankruptcy, lost our house, my truck. Being in my fifties, my prospects looked dim. It could have been me, on the sidewalk, in her place. I was told not to give money to panhandlers because they'll just spend it on booze. I thought to myself, What should I do, if anything? What would you do? I asked for advice from a friend who has worked with homeless people. She said, `The woman is probably hungry. Why don't you ask her if she'd like a breakfast sandwich and maybe a coffee?' That sounded reasonable, so the next day I asked, "Are you hungry? Would you like some breakfast, perhaps a coffee?" "That would be nice," she replied. When I brought her a sandwich and coffee she said to me, "Thank you so much, sir. You're so kind. Bless you." I truly felt blessed. This has become a morning routine for the past four years. The woman (I'll call Joy) and I have become friends. Often I'll sit with her on the sidewalk. We sometimes meet her companions in the park. They have become my closest friends. I think of them as angels. My life has become much richer for the experience.'

As a coda to this street symphony, Cardiff states: `After eighteen months of daily conversations with people living on the streets, in shelters or sharing accommodation, I have made the following observations. A full-fledged member of the street family is one who has been with the group for over ten years. Jacques and Joy are the matriarch and patriarch. Everyone else is a newbie -- on probation. To gain acceptance one must be vouched for and have proven themselves not to be an asshole. The group expects honesty and sincerity. That may seem strange when you consider that most of these people have prison records. Many have been involved in scams of one sort or another, but if you're family they expect the truth. How else, they explained, can they help you? They'll share with you what little they have, even the jackets off their back. The same is expected in return. The people who come around only when they're in need of money, cigarettes, booze, drugs or food are soon put on notice. On check day, all debts are paid in full.'

These are the words of a man who cares, and in his caring and sharing we discover an entirely new outlook on the people whose street homes are beneath benches, in cardboard boxes, in doorways - any place that provides shelter. Dennis Cardiff brings them into our hearts.

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## **Marta Tandori says**

Raw, Gritty Vignettes That Tell Their Own Tales

Let's face it – we've all done it at one time or another – seen someone panhandling and quickly crossed to

the other side of the street or walked by them with our cell phone stuck to our ears, pretending to be deep in conversation so we wouldn't have to engage with them in any way. The author, Dennis Cardiff, did exactly what most of us would never do – he engaged with the street people he came in contact with on his daily travels to and from work. Over time, these men and women became his friends and his daily interactions with them are chronicled in *Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People*. This isn't a book with chapters and pretty prose. It's a collection of raw, gritty and simplistic vignettes that tell their own tales of abuse, regret, violence and illness (mental and otherwise) that aren't confined to any particular demographic. One thing is clear, however. Cardiff doesn't patronize, placate or offer any solutions. All he offers are a sympathetic ear, a bagel and a coffee or some spare change, as the particular encounter warrants. For a reader who still believes in unicorns and happy endings, this was a difficult book to read but certainly a necessary one. Perhaps at some point, we all need to take off our rose-colored glasses and see the world for what it is, warts and all.

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## **Abelardo says**

I just finished this fine work by a very astute observer of “street life.” Mr. Cardiff's interactions hit a few nerves for me, as well as rekindled memories of my own experiences with similar people in a different time and place.

I was immediately drawn into the writer's humanity, and kindness as he delved into the dilemmas inherent in these never intended lifestyles. One could sense throughout the winding story his empathy with so many of these lives unable to lift themselves away from the constant downward pull of a gravity set in motion in their youth. The conversations begin with an act of simple kindness by Mr. Cardiff to a lady he sees on the street. He recollects his own living on the edge at various times in his life, and that no doubt allows him to not judge harshly the people who presently come before him.

The story is inhabited by struggling characters of different ages and backgrounds— Hippo, Weasel, Shakes, Antonio, and Toothless Chuck populate the narrative.

The grimness of their lives for me is encapsulated in this brief passage as Mr. Cardiff turns his attention to Joy, the most recurring figure in *Gotta Find a Home*:

“She has cracked cartilage in her nose with a gash across the bridge, two black eyes and pneumonia in both lungs. Her boyfriend, Big Jake, who is six foot, three and weighs over two hundred pounds, punched her in the face when she wouldn't give him oral sex (she couldn't breathe through her nose because of the pneumonia). He left her on the sidewalk in a pool of blood. A month ago he kicked her to the point that her whole right side was bruised; she had two cracked and two fractured ribs. In both cases she phoned the police, so hopefully this time he will be in jail a long time.

I sat with her, gave her a big hug and let her vent. “I love Big Jake, but I have to take care of myself. I can't be somebody's punching bag. One day he's going to kill me.”

One first pained reaction was “BUT SHE LOVES HIM?” How many times have we encountered implausibly connected couples in polite restaurant settings—he badgering her, bullying intellectually, slightly derisive.” What does she see in him,” we ask ourselves. Yet here is a woman declaring her love for a terrible brute, not just a smarmy guy belittling his partner as the tiramisu is brought to the table.

I mentioned my own connection—I worked in the New York City Social Services on the Lower East Side long before its gentrification. It was a time when heroin was easier to find than the Pinot Noir now served in the outdoor cafes. Mr. Cardiff's sharp characterizations brought me back to that time—unlike his occasional

Inuit Native American lost in a Toronto that has no resemblance to his barren birthplace, the inhabitants of my Lower East Side experience were also cut adrift in the same way. They may have come from Puerto Rico and spoke a stumbling English, or a farm boy from Kansas still reeling from Viet Nam.

Whether it's the Toronto street people of this era's oxycotin and crack cocaine or the Lower East Side of heroin and pre-AIDS, all of these people have a voice similar in its despair.

I recommend this book—it is an entrance to a world we see everyday, but rarely stop to engage.

Alan Geik, author Glenfiddich Inn

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### **Tfaulkner says**

A fascinating look inside a world many others don't want to see. From the time he first meets Joy and her colleagues, Dennis steps back and lets them speak in their own voices, with no judgement and minimal intrusion. Personalities come through and the drama, pathos and humour in their lives is evident. A very enjoyable read, with the minor quibble that descriptions of location can be a bit confusing (is it Toronto or Ottawa?) Looking forward to the next book!

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### **Karen Silvestri says**

Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People will be available June 10th! I can't tell you what a joy it has been to work with author/blogger, Dennis Cardiff. The man has infinite patience and kindness. His collection of conversations with the homeless in his neighborhood reads like a novel, but is factual in content (names and locations have been changed).

Dennis stops by to visit with the people you will meet in this book almost every morning and every afternoon. They have, in his words, "become like family." He chronicles their ups and downs and everyday happenings. As you turn the pages, you never know what is going to happen next.

I hope you all will join Dennis on this enlightening and heartwarming journey through the world of the people we so often ignore or write off as hopeless cases. You will grow to love them, and some of them you will not like very much, but you will find that at the core, these street people are human beings who deserve to be treated as such. They love and lose, just as we all do. They struggle to survive in a world that is often very much against them. But most of all, the characters in this book are family to one another.

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### **Meglana Ivanova says**

Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People by Dennis Cardiff is all about street people you meet that make life the rich, vibrant experience that it is. They shape our memories more than the locations themselves. They can make a bad place good, or a great place bad. They teach us about what we like or don't like in others. They shine lights on our ignorance and teach us about ourselves.

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The book is written in such detail and it's highly amusing. Feelings come and go. Sometimes there is sorrow, sometimes joy. Very thought provoking & a uplifting book that keeps you so emotionally engaged throughout it. Cardiff has a gift for explaining deep thoughts in an approachable and very emotional way.

A little about what have I learned from the book....

Reading page after page we can quickly learn two things about the homeless from Cardiff's book. First, you can learn that many of the homeless, before they were homeless, were people more or less like ourselves: members of the working or middle class. And we can learn that the world of the homeless has its roots in various policies, events, and ways of life. We can also learn from Cardiff's characters that one of the most important things there is to know about the homeless - that they can be roughly divided into two groups: those who have had homelessness forced upon them and want nothing more than to escape it; and those who have at least in part chosen it for themselves, and now accept, or in some cases, embrace it.

We must learn to accept that there may indeed be people, and not only vets, who have seen so much of our world, or seen it so clearly, that to live in it becomes impossible. Here, for example, is the story of "Joy", a homeless middle-age woman from Toronto. She sees the streets as her home and the rest of the street people in her group as her family. As a person she has experienced many difficult moments through her life - troubled childhood, raped by male guard in prison for Women, mental problems, abusive and alcoholic boyfriend who beats her very often... but her story have changed Cardiff's life in a extraordinary way. By writing about her experiences, he tells us that it is important to understand that however disorderly or dirty or unmanageable the world of homeless men and women like "Joy" appears to us, it is not without its significance, and its rules and rituals.

They are many more stories in the book that can make you take a step back and think about the way you live, treat others, and treat yourself. I can relate to most of what the author wrote. I believe that the main message Cardiff is sending is that no matter who they are, no matter where they live good people bring out the good in people. I am so glad that Dennis Cardiff shared his remarkable experience with his readers. I would remember his book for years, because my life have been enriched and transformed by reading Cardiff's an amazing journey.

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## Ioana says

I was very curious about this book, Gotta Find a Home. Conversations with Street People by Dennis Cardiff. The title and the description of the book were the things that caught my attention. However, for some reason, the beginning was pretty rocky. It made me wonder if maybe this is the sort of book that you read in slices, a bit now, a bit later, a bit tomorrow. It depicts, after all, pieces of people's lives; it's not fiction, but real life. But as I read, I was curious how those lives evolved and in the same time I was wondering if their lives could be more static. It felt like a slow read probably because it was written like a journal, with dates and months written before every entry. Through a journal you don't rush, you take in every day.

But first things first: this book is about panhandlers, about homeless people. They live in Toronto. The information about their lives is gathered by Dennis, the author and the narrator of the book. He worked near the meeting place of the panhandlers. There's a group that keeps showing up in the book, the usual suspects as they are referred to. There are also some other names that are brought up. It's a really vast universe. It was a bit tricky to keep up with all those names, but you soon realise that those who are the real "characters" are quickly etched into your mind.

Every panhandler has a distinct personality. So different. I must admit that I started this book curious, but in the same time with a baggage of judgment towards these people. I started with the ideas that most people have when they have to get in contact, even for the briefest of moments, with panhandlers and homeless: once an addict, always an addict. While this is not whipped away in the book, I like that they are given the chance to show why they are in the situation they are in at the moment. I'm not giving them excuses, but it's nice to see a different perspective on things. I definitely didn't expect such a wide spectrum of backgrounds. Some of the people in the group came from a respectful background, some attended college ["It seems funny now, thinking that I would have gone into law, since nearly everything I do is illegal." -- Irene], some had families, kids, jobs and bosses waiting for them when they decided to go back. If you're looking for a reason why they chose the life on the streets to the life "back home", this book isn't giving you one. Probably more than justifying them, it just aims to offer a look into their lives.

My favourite thing about this book is the narrator's attitude through all this. I love that rather than giving them money, he is quicker to offer breakfast cards, coffee, is willing to buy them breakfast. He helps them in a practical way, serving their needs rather than their wants. This probably sounds harsh, but it's how I see things. I was glad to see that the narrator avoids talking or even writing his thoughts about the panhandlers from a right or bad point of view. Another aspect I loved so much is that he wasn't trying to interfere in their lives; he doesn't adopt a Good Samaritan attitude, or better said the attitude of a social worker. He's there just to chat, ask questions (but not intrusive ones). He accepts them and is not a controlling outsider. This was really refreshing to see, for some reason. "I'm not trying to control his life, or give him my opinion of what I think he should do. I'm trying to enable him to have more control of his life, the way he wants it."

Throughout the book I couldn't help but see the panhandlers as the members of a different world within the world of the everyday normality. There are intertwined relationships forming and breaking every day, week, month, year. It's the learning about the fellow panhandler through the grapevine, what other said, but soon is proved to be not that accurate... It's a wonder, really. It's the world of the regulars who've been in the same place for years, but in the same time the world of the passer-by who's just looking for his place in the panhandling world. It's the world in which good does triumph over bad, panhandlers helping one another through bad times. It's a fairy-tale like world, with bad characters and good characters, but unlike the classic fairy tales, you don't know for sure that good will conquer the bad gradually, as you turn the pages. It's the day by day real life. "It's like a daily soap opera, lives and loves exposed for all to see." But few have eyes to see beyond the façade.

"It's nice waking up in the morning. If I don't, I know something's wrong." (Little Jake)

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## **Nzfiend says**

Originally interested in street photography myself I stumbled over Dennis via our occasionally overlapping blog postings on Wordpress. He liked some of my stuff, so I read some of his. Instantly identifiable. Emphatically told stories of the real life city dwellers that capitalism creates and spits out.

Dennis is a good man. And the people whom allow him into their lives in such detail, honest and open manner are worthy of being presented to the world at large.

Can only suggest that PHOTOMAN777777 from Instagram ( Photoman on Web.Stagram ) and Mr Cardiff do something world changing with their work.

Changing one life is awesome. Getting that one person to help another is brilliant. Treating others better than you were treated yourself is the answer to life, the universe and everything.

## Joseph says

GOTTA FIND A HOME by Dennis Cardiff  
Book Review by Joseph Spuckler

Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People by Dennis Cardiff is a unique look at the situation in Toronto. Cardiff is not from the expected background for this work. He is not a sociologist, but a poet and an artist and like many people has had his close call to losing everything.

What makes Gotta Find a Home different from all other books on homelessness is that is not a study on the how and why of homelessness. It is also not investigative journalism trying to create sensationalism rather than finding a solution. It, perhaps most importantly, is not political and does not assign blame. It is a work based off of friendship and trust.

Cardiff records the day to day conversations he has with the local street people. Some people have stories of great woe or loss, but those are quickly replaced with conversations that seem rather typical of most people. The talk centers around what most people talk about. Talk and concern over friends, money, rent, food, and perhaps more than the usual amount of talk about alcohol. Cardiff has work his way into the group and is not seen as an easy mark for money. He will buy coffee and for Joy, breakfast. He offers bus passes and encouragement and will not buy alcohol for anyone.

The reader will learn about the homeless community and the social order and rules of the community. Most know each other well and know who can be trusted. They watch out as a group for the police, their biggest security concern. No one wants to get ticketed (even though they can't pay the fine) or arrested. It is not crime, but loitering and drinking in public that are the major concerns. Business owners treat people differently. Some business are tolerant other have security run people off.

Homelessness does not necessarily mean sleeping on the streets. Many find shelters and others share apartments with many other people. No dwelling is considered more than temporary. There is also some squatting on public and private property.

Cardiff puts a personal face on the street people. They are not the just people in the way. The book made me wonder why people would choose to remain homeless. I don't recall any mention, save one, of someone who said I am going to end this and re-enter "society." There was no argument of I want to work, but I cannot get hired. There is alcoholism, but our society has plenty of functional alcoholics in every level of employment. I do not believe the argument that homeless people want to be homeless. Canada and the United States seem to share this same problem. Government and charity programs seem to treat the symptoms but not the cause. They seem to make life more bearable, but do not fix the problem. Cardiff's personal look at the individuals in an honest way may provide the understanding that will lead to meaningful change.

Joseph Spuckler gives 5 Stars to Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People

Read Joseph's Other Book Reviews

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## Promod Sharma says

I always tend to rate a creation high if there is a purpose behind it.

Things can be meaningful for self, but to be purposeful they have to serve others, especially those who need to be served.

As for the style of writing, high level of commitment itself becomes a style of its own kind.

I am an author, not a professional critic. No one should expect me to find faults with trivial things. The book is not pretentious that is more than enough for me.

I give it a perfect 5-Star. I did not buy it. I borrowed it from a friend of mine, read it and returned it to him with thanks.

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## Stephanie Jane (Literary Flits) says

I discovered Gotta Find A Home on twitter where its author posts as @denniscardiff. I will admit that I am one of those who generally averts their eyes when I notice beggars on the street so, other than the usual political platitudes, I know very little about the people themselves. Intrigued by Dennis' synopsis, I bought his book. All the profits from Gotta Find A Home are donated to homelessness alleviation projects in Toronto so I thought, even if I didn't like the read, I was doing a good thing with its purchase.

As it turned out, this is a pretty fascinating book. Written in diary form, Dennis recounts daily conversations he has had with members of a fluctuating group of homeless panhandlers (beggars) who live near to where he works in Toronto. Conversations aren't recorded, but related from memory, so I did find the speaking style a little odd to begin with. What surprised me most though was the lack of a stereotype within the group. These people are of all ages from their twenties to their sixties (although many will die much younger than they might if they weren't homeless) some are abuse victims but not all, some are alcoholics or drug addicts but not all, some have a university education while others can barely write, some are mentally disturbed while others are highly intelligent and articulate. There is apparently no such thing as A Typical Homeless Person.

Dennis makes no claims to have the answers to homelessness, neither does he defend or vilify the behaviour and actions of the people about whom he writes. Instead he simply presents their day-to-day lives and leaves us readers to make our own decisions. Formerly anonymous grey shapes, as appear in every town in Britain in the same circumstances as in Canada, now define themselves into 'normal people' (if you'll excuse that phrase). This is Joy. This is Ian. This is Hippo. This is Lucy. They talk about their friends and relationships, what they might have for dinner, how much they've earned today, and whether there is enough to pay the rent. Then they mention an acquaintance who had his teeth kicked out and another who was doused in gasoline and set alight.

I think Gotta Find A Home would make a very interesting Book Club choice as I found my assumptions being challenged, but without my being made to feel defensive or hectored. I would definitely like to hear opinions from other readers as I hope that this memoir will remain memorable for me.

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## **Cathy Ryan says**

This is a non fictional story of a group of homeless people in a Canadian city from the perspective of the man who befriended them. Documented in diary format Dennis Cardiff catalogues the conversations he has with the various panhandlers, which brings home the reality of people who are forced, for one reason or another, into a life on the streets. These accounts show just how people's lives and personalities can be and are formed by past traumas in the form of abuse, addiction and mental and physical disorders.

The conversations throughout the book demonstrate the sense of community among the group and the very noticeably differing personalities, each having their own stories and set of circumstances, and all the while helping the reader to see them as people in their own right, with real feelings and needs, struggling to survive against the odds.

This book tells it like it is, with no frills, and it is a challenging read. Not only because of the plight of the street people but also the way they are viewed and judged by the general public and more often than not, ignored. It's something I imagine most of us, including myself, are guilty of. Dennis Cardiff tackles the issue in a completely constructive way by offering food, a bus ticket or coffee on daily basis and gradually getting to know the street people. It all started one morning as he was walking to work and saw a woman sitting on the sidewalk. He didn't know quite what he should do, if anything. A friend advised him to offer her food and coffee and so began a morning ritual which evolved into a life changing experience for the author.

This is a unique insight into homelessness and the views of some of the people who live on the streets. Dennis Cardiff doesn't try to explain why they are homeless or suggest solutions, he just offers his time, friendship and a willingness to listen.

<http://betweenthelinesbookblog.wordpress...>

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## **Sara Britt says**

Sometimes, we avoid situations we do not understand, but more often than not, we shun circumstances we detest. In the homeless world, it's citizens are often objects of misinterpretation and loathing. They are in need of someone or something that will imbue the truth that homeless people have value because they are human beings, same as the entire world. Dennis Cardiff's conversations with the homeless in "Gotta Find a Home", breaks that barrier between the Haves and the Have Nots. After reading the book, one begins to understand that the homeless are no different than other people...same concerns, same worries, same devotions, and same loves. For me, The conversations were both enlightening and humbling.

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## **Dennis Cardiff says**

Author: <http://buff.ly/1PxIHSg>

Blogger: <http://ow.ly/AD3t4>

Facebook: <http://ow.ly/AD2sG>

Release date for Gotta Find a Home: Conversations with Street People, was June 5, 2015. All author proceeds from book sales are going directly to those forced onto the streets and to the Ottawa Innercity Ministries, Street Outreach Program. In 2014 the webpage, Gotta Find a Home, was the vehicle for donations amounting to \$585.00 to this worthwhile cause.

Sales have been steady, but I'm not sure the book is getting into the right hands. As critics have pointed out, "It is a most unusual concept for a book." "A book like no other I have previously read!" "I would suggest this powerful book to anyone interested in volunteering, to social workers, and to anyone that would like a better perspective into a hard life, and how you can help." To clarify, this is not my book, it's not about me, the words came from my friends on the street who generously shared their stories, their friendship and kindness. I merely transcribed their words into print. Their lives are not always interesting (try sitting on a sidewalk for ten to twelve hours a day). Their stories are sometimes tragic, sometimes horrific, sometimes humorous, always unique.

I seem to have created a book that has no niche. On she shelves of Indigo Chapters it usually gets relegated to the remote section designated for local authors.

Gotta Find a Home has received 63 - 4.5 star Amazon reviews and 85 - 4.6 star Goodreads ratings. On Amazon.ca the Kindle version has been consistently in the top 100 in the fields of Current Events > Poverty and Social Science > Poverty since its publication. reaching #1 in two categories. Interviews on local television. Three successful book signings and many reviews have appeared in book blogs. a contract is pending with Indigo Chapters for distribution throughout Canada.

It is not success I am striving for, but a means of introducing the lives of street people to the general population in a less threatening way. I have offered them a forum where they can express their feelings about their situation and the treatment they receive. We are all the same, we seek happiness and an end to suffering.

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