



The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children, Book 5)

By Jean M. Auel

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The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children, Book 5) By Jean M. Auel

The Shelters of Stone opens as Ayla and Jondalar, along with their animal friends, Wolf, Whinney, and Racer, complete their epic journey across Europe and are greeted by Jondalar's people: the Zelandonii. The people of the Ninth Cave of the Zelandonii fascinate Ayla. Their clothes, customs, artifacts, even their homes—formed in great cliffs of vertical limestone—are a source of wonder to her. And in the woman Zelandoni, the spiritual leader of the Ninth Cave (and the one who initiated Jondalar into the Gift of Pleasure), she meets a fellow healer with whom to share her knowledge and skills.

But as Ayla and Jondalar prepare for the formal mating at the Summer Meeting, there are difficulties. Not all the Zelandonii are welcoming. Some fear Ayla's unfamiliar ways and abhor her relationship with those they call flatheads and she calls Clan. Some even oppose her mating with Jondalar, and make their displeasure known. Ayla has to call on all her skills, intelligence, knowledge, and instincts to find her way in this complicated society, to prepare for the birth of her child, and to decide whether she will accept new challenges and play a significant role in the destiny of the Zelandonii.

Jean Auel is at her very best in this superbly textured creation of a prehistoric society. **The Shelters of Stone** is a sweeping story of love and danger, with all the wonderful detail—based on meticulous research—that makes her novels unique. It is a triumphant continuation of the Earth's Children® saga that began with **The Clan of the Cave Bear**. And it includes an amazing rhythmic poem that describes the birth of Earth's Children and plays its own role in the narrative of **The Shelters of Stone**.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Jean Auel's fifth novel about Ayla, the Cro-Magnon cavewoman raised by Neanderthals, is the biggest comeback bestseller in Amazon.com history. In *The Shelters of Stone*, Ayla meets the Zelandonii tribe of Jondalar, the Cro-Magnon hunk she rescued from Baby, her pet lion. Ayla is pregnant. How will Jondalar's mom react? Or his bitchy jilted fiancée? Ayla wows her future in-laws by striking fire from flint and taming a wild wolf. But most regard her Neanderthal adoptive Clan as subhuman "flatheads." Clan larynxes can't quite manage language, and Ayla must convince the Zelandonii that Clan sign language isn't just arm-flapping. Zelandonii and Clan are skirmishing, and those who interbreed are deemed "abominations." What would Jondalar's tribe think if they knew Ayla had to abandon her half-breed son in Clan country? The plot is slow to unfold, because Auel's first goal is to pack the tale with period Pleistocene detail, provocative speculation, and bits of romance, sex, tribal politics, soap opera, and homicidal wooly rhino-hunting adventure. It's an enveloping fact-based fantasy, a genre-crossing time trip to the Ice Age. --*Tim Appelo*

From Publishers Weekly

The tiny minority of authors with the power to sell millions of novels each time out are a diverse bunch, but they share a talent for ushering readers into previously closed worlds, whether they're the top-secret inner sanctums of the American military or the ancient lands of magic. The best of them craft terrific stories that tap into universal topics, primal fears and deep-seated longings. In 1980, Auel became a member of this elite club. Her first novel, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, the exceptional and absorbing account of a bright Cro-Magnon girl struggling to understand the ways of the Neanderthals who adopted her, became a huge bestseller and launched the *Earth's Children* series, which has sold 34 million copies to date. In the next three of an intended six volumes, Ayla the Cro-Magnon girl grew up and put a pretty face on our earliest ancestors, as Auel explored the mother of all human themes: adapt or die. After the fourth bestseller, *The Plains of Passage*, however, 12 years elapsed, and Auel thereby added the protracted anticipation of her fans to her bestselling mix. Here at last, beautiful Ayla and her tall, gorgeous Cro-Magnon lover, Jondalar, arrive in Jondalar's Zelandonii homeland, to live with his clan in vast caves of what today is France. Travelling with a pet wolf and two horses, able to speak the strange language of the "flatheads," Ayla is once again an exotic outsider. Pregnant with Jondalar's child and as zealous in her desire to help as she is resourceful and creative as a medicine woman, Ayla soon wins the respect of the people she wishes to join. Bursting with hard information about ancient days and awash in steamy sex (though lacking the high suspense that marked Ayla's debut), Auel's latest will not only please her legions of fans but will hit the top of the list, pronto.

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From Library Journal

After 12 years, Auel continues her famed "Earth's Children" series with this fifth volume in a planned six-part series set in prehistoric Europe. Ayla, a Cro-Magnon woman raised by Neanderthals, and Jondalar, a Cro-Magnon man, have just completed a yearlong journey to arrive at Jondalar's boyhood home, where they wish to mate and live together among his people. Ayla is quickly welcomed into his family but has to struggle to be accepted by the larger community owing to her unusual upbringing and tame animal companions. With her knowledge of healing and unique interpersonal skills, Alya gains their trust and makes friends. The couple finds many opportunities to retell previous adventures, a recycling of material from the earlier novels that quickly becomes repetitive and tedious. Still, Auel's imaginative and well-researched re-creation of Cro-Magnon life holds the story together despite the lack of plot and character development. Readers who hang on until the last hundred pages will be rewarded with new and interesting plot developments, an obvious setup for the next novel in the series. Public libraries should buy multiple copies

for expected demand. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 1/02; for an interview with Auel, see LJ 2/15/02. Ed.]
Karen T. Bilton, Somerset Cty. Lib., Bridgewater, NJ
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marian Sheffield:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information today can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children, Book 5) as the daily resource information.

John Lee:

This book untitled The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children, Book 5) to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this book from your list.

Samuel Rascon:

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Kimberly Dyer:

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