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Snakes Don't Miss Their Mothers

Janet O. Francis

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Kerr, M.E.. *Snakes Don't Miss Their Mothers*. HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN 0060526246. \$16.89. 195 pp.

Reviewer: Janet O. Francis

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Shortcomings

Genre: Christmas stories;

Subject: Animal shelters; Animal rescue; Book—Reviews;

Placido, Irving, Marshall, Catherine--these are some of the animal inhabitants of Critters, a compassionate animal shelter. Mrs. Splinter, Ginny Tintree, Jimmie Twilight, Quentin Quick--these are some of the inhabitants of the outside world that interact with the inmates during the Christmas season. And even the author has to give the reader a score card. Told from the point-of-view of the animals in the shelter, who long to be adopted, this is a kind of animal shelter promotion dressed up with lots of action and very unusual human characters including an aspiring young actress who lives on a houseboat, a stuttering CEO, a wicked animal catcher, ad infinitum. Somehow none of the interesting and unusual behavior, background and feelings of any of the above seems real enough to provoke answering feelings in the reader, just confusion! A worthy aim, but unlikely to relieve many animals' sufferings or hard times.