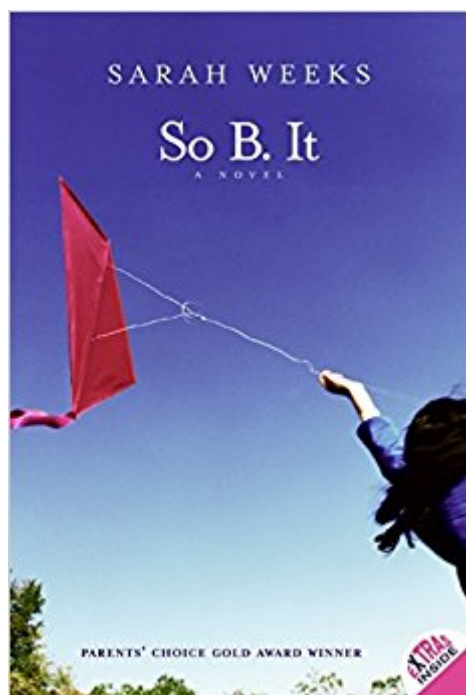


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# So B. It



## Synopsis

Now a major motion picture starring Alfre Woodard, Jessica Collins, John Heard, Jacinda Barrett, Cloris Leachman, and Talitha Bateman— in theaters October 2017! From acclaimed author Sarah Weeks comes *A*— a touching coming-of-age story about a young girl who goes on a cross-country journey to discover the truth about her parents, which the New York Times called "a remarkable novel." Perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead's *When You Reach Me* and Ali Benjamin's *The Thing About Jellyfish*. She doesn't know when her birthday is or who her father is. In fact, everything about Heidi and her mentally disabled mother's past is a mystery. When a strange word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi sets out on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. Far away from home, pieces of her puzzling history come together. But it isn't until she learns to accept not knowing that Heidi truly arrives.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 401 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,993 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in *Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Travel* #41 in *Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness* #82 in *Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction*

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

One day in her apartment in Reno, Bernadette heard a pitiful sound in the hallway. She opened the door a crack and saw a young woman standing there in her raincoat, her bare legs spattered with dried mud, holding a crying baby wrapped in a blanket. The baby was Heidi, and they had come from the almost-empty apartment next door for help. Heidi's Mama can't tend her week-old child

because she has, as Heidi later says, "a bum brain," so Bernadette steps in and cares for them both tenderly. Mama says her name is "So Be It," but with her twenty-three-word vocabulary, this is all the information she can give Bernadette. Twelve years later this strange but loving household is still together. Heidi does the shopping because Bernadette has "angora phobia," and pays for it with money she wins at the laundromat; Bernadette teaches her at the kitchen table while Mama is happily occupied with her coloring books, and the rent and utilities are always mysteriously paid. But Heidi wonders who she is, where she and Mama came from, why they were alone, and most of all, she wants to know the meaning of Mama's word "soof." When she finds some old photos in a cupboard, she knows where to go to find out, and as she sets out on a long cross-country bus journey, the pieces of the puzzle begin to fall into surprising places in this intriguing and heartwarming mystery. (Ages 10 to 14) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-9 Heidi and her mother have lived in an apartment that adjoins with their neighbor, Bernadette, since the 12-year-old was probably no more than a week old. Bernadette accepted and loved them from the moment they arrived at her door but could never ask questions since Heidi's mentally challenged mother simply "didn't have the words to answer them." Bernadette's agoraphobia further isolates the child. Heidi struggles with knowing nothing about her father or her family history, and never having a real last name. Then she finds an old camera, which prompts her quest to learn the identity of the people in the photographs it holds and to discover her past. While traveling by bus from Nevada to Liberty, NY, the girl relies on her luck, instinct, and the people she meets on the way to learn the truth about her mother and her own background. Readers will pull for and empathize with the likable characters, especially Heidi as she struggles for self-knowledge. The almost melodramatic story has fantasy elements such as Heidi's lucky streak; hitting a slot machine enables her to buy the bus ticket to New York. Heidi's naive voice, however, creates a willing suspension of disbelief as she learns what she set out to and matures along the way. Maria B. Salvadore, formerly at District of Columbia Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Heidi and her mother live in Reno next door to Bernadette, who takes care of them. Heidi's mother has a disability and cannot live with Heidi on her own. Bernie is a caregiver, teacher, and friend to both Heidi and her mother. But Heidi wants to know who she and her mother are. When she sees

photos of her mother as a young woman, Heidi impulsively decides to venture out alone for answers.

I actually liked this book more than one would expect when giving it only three stars. It's not that great a book, not that believable. Yet I liked the characters, the simplicity and the love in it. For me, there was insight into how it is to live with a people who have mental health issues and how hard it can be to trust those who turn out to be trustworthy. I'm glad Heidi was able to sort that all out.

I really liked this story a lot. I really appreciated hearing about this through the eyes of a child who simply wanted to know who she was, where she came from, and who her family was. There was so much that was a mystery for her. I really can't say too much more on the book without giving anything away, but what I want to say is this: There is so much to learn from this simple tale about family and the true meaning of love and how we find it in the most unexpected places and people. Definitely a beautiful read for all ages, and will definitely be a prize to own. Absolutely beautiful.

Good read even though several aspects are implausible. Hard to believe that you can live an undocumented life, that no one would ever come looking for you, that you would stumble into a stranger who could and would totally devote her life to your upbringing in a good way, that a twelve-year-old could make the cross-country trip alone with two sandwiches and very little money, get to her destination and solve a life-long mystery. But, if you just throw those issues in a cabinet and lock the door temporarily, it's a good read. You will really care about the characters. It's a story where life is more than fair, good people have guardian angels and happily ever after is possible.

It was refreshing to read a book filled with feeling and good people. No swearing, hateful talk, or murder. Satisfying ending too!

Such a beautiful, sweet, tragic book. I am an avid reader and this has leaped to one of my favorites. It is among the likes of "Room" or "Finding Emma." It never ceases to amaze me how authors are able to capture the emotion that one would imagine in a situation like this. In my opinion, many have tried but few can truly portray the innocence of a child in less than ideal situations. I literally read this whole book in one evening. It is a quick read but oh so worth it! Heidi will remain in my mind for quite a while.

Told from the point of view of a child who grows up in an apartment with two handicapped women. Her mother is able to say only a handful of words and has nothing to offer her daughter except unconditional love. The other woman is a neighbor who knocks down the connecting door between apartments when she hears the baby crying. She cares for the child and the mother, providing dry diapers, food, even home schooling as the little girl grows. All inside the apartment. Because her handicap is that she is unable to step outside of her own front door. Everything they need is delivered. The little girl learns to explore the outside world on her own, and eventually takes off across the country to solve the mystery of how a woman with the mental age of a toddler, and a newborn infant came to be left all alone in a city apartment.

This book was so wonderful that I can hardly describe how I feel! It was charming and precious and I highly recommend it. So entertaining and it made me HAPPY!

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