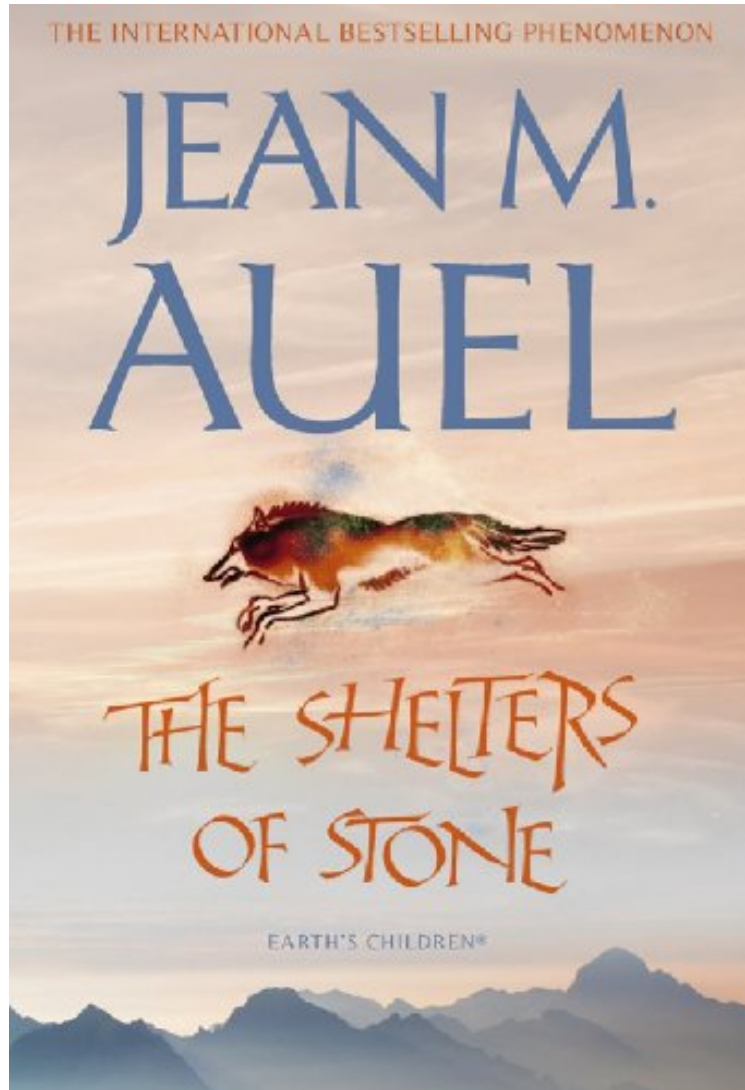


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## The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children)

Von Jean M. Auel

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**Von Jean M. Auel : The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shelters of Stone (Earth's Children):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen41 von 41 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Plot? What plot?Von Ein KundeI loved the first three books, and thought the fourth still had some interesting bits and even though the very detailed descriptions of landscape, flora and fauna bored me, the parts where Ayla and Jondalar met people were still interesting. So I expected the next book, where they were confronted with Jondalar's people, to be really fascinating. I reread the four books occasionally in the last twelve years, and I seriously thought Jean Auel wouldn't finish the series after such a long break. But, as soon as I saw that there would be another installment, I

preordered it at .I'm giving this book two stars, because I respect the research Ms. Auel did for it. But it is no fun to read this book.Dear fellow readers, please don't spend the money on the hardback. If you must own it for continuity sakes, wait for the paperback. If you want to know what happens, check it out in your library. Don't start reading, when you're already tired. Don't take it with you on a journey without packing alternatives.This book is so booooooring!! The worst thing first: There is no plot. Ayla and Jondalar meet his family and his cave, Ayla gets adopted again, she shows her skills as a healer, all go to the great Zelandoni summer meeting, Ayla and Jondalar get married, Ayla gives birth to a daughter, and Whinney gives birth to a filly. Jondalar's former flame succeeds in convincing Ayla to train as a Zelandoni (spiritual leader and healer). That's it. There are descriptions, introductions, a terrible, very long poem, and all this is often repeated in the book. People are shocked by the tame animals, people are amazed by the firestones, the spear-thrower, the theory that flatheads are people, too.... and this happens not once, twice, thrice ...Also not very entertaining (to put it mildly) are the endless introductions with the endless repetitions of stupid and for the readers meaningless names and affiliations. God, that was boring! The sex scenes are boring, too, but I already thought so in the third book of the series. Yeah, oral sex is nice, but reading descriptions about it phrased in the most flowery, old-fashioned way gets old pretty fast IMO. The sex between Ayla and Jondalar is always great, Ayla is always willing - and this was written by a woman? Sounds more like a guy's fantasy to me.There is no characterisation anymore. Ayla and Jondalar always were comic book heros, too beautiful and skilled to be real, but now they are cardboard characters, and wimpy, too. How can they both be so adaptive and submissive to everything and everyone, after everything they went through?Another plot point in the former books, that came to nothing in this one was the Clan-connection. I was a bit suspicious that Jondalar's father was willing to let his daughter mate a man of mixed spirits (in Plains of Passage), but Dalanar was supposedly a rebel, who founded his own cave, so I let it rest. But the behaviour by Jondalar's people in this book is just not consistent with what we learned about them in the previous books. They are mildly displeased with Ayla's past with the Clan, but only a few crazies (like the cave drunk) express their disgust in impolite terms. They even have people of mixed spirits living with them without any overt discrimination.Oh, and the names are so stupid and interchangeable, you really need a chart to tell the folks apart (that is, if you still care about anybody at all). Even in the travelling book (Plains of Passage) there was more plot and the people Ayla and Jondalar met were distinguishable. The Zelandoni aren't. Oh, and finally another nitpick of mine: Jondalar's former love is now extremely fat and extremely powerful but very benevolent. Not only does she welcome Ayla with open arms, when she is challenged by a jealous rival or insulted by the cave slut, she reacts so rationally and mildly - it's - you guessed it - booring! I'm getting a bit doubtful of all those powerful yet responsible people Ms. Auel created. The corruption power so often brings, is in her books always a fault of minor characters (except for Broud in Clan of the Cave Bear). That doesn't make for interesting reading if only powerless, unimportant characters have bad intentions towards our heroine. There are a lot of loose ends when this book finally comes to its last page. I don't know whether I'm still interested enough to buy the sixth book (which is supposedly the last), especially in hardcover. I know that I won't reread this book in the time it takes Ms. Auel to bring out the next one, which according to a rumour is already finished but held back not to be published in this decade.17 von 17 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Goodness, DONI!!Von SorcySummerWindMamma mia! After all these years of hopefully checking for the new release list, praying it will be on it eventually, I got it used (almost right after released date) and was stunned someone would give it away. I mean, my first 4 books are prices possessions, read and reread about every year. Anyone so much as THINKING about borrowing it risks permanent damage. However, this does not come close to the charisma of the others. I'm not even 1/4 through and I'm ready to give it back too. Yes, the repetitions are a nightmare, and if this book was not written for her fans (as in, us who bought the first 4??) but for someone who might never have heard about Ayla.... why bother? They get this, they definately won't go out to hunt for 1-4.The research and the information is fantastic as usual, which is the only reason there even IS a star or two. And, ahem, am I having major deja vu problems, or did we not already HAVE the scenarios playing out in in the other books, down to almost identical sounding names. Lets see, the jealous ex dressing Ayla up in boys clothes (check), village drunk making her life hell (check,) drunk mother neglecting kids and Ayla coming to the rescue (check), halfblood (okay, quarter this time, but puhleez) adoring Ayla and otherwise being mistreated (check), and on and on it goes. I am half expecting her to stumble over a lion cub somewhere. Not only does this book repeat itself, but it seems indeed 10 years were too long to remember what was already written, by way of storylines and oops, here we go again. It appears we, the fans, have read them far more often then the author. How very sad. No matter how much better (if any) the book gets towards the end, I will neither keep an eye trained on the new release list, nor buy another sequel. If the other books gave me trouble because I read through the night and end up with rackoon eyes, because it was impossible to put down, this is now one of my favorite nighttime novels. Yes, I CAN put it down when picking it up for just one chapter at night. Heck, I'm having a hard time staying awake for the full chapter. In closing, I won't tell you NOT to buy it. You will anyway. ANYone who has the other 4 will not be able to sleep a wink until holding this one, we waited too long for it. You'll have to see for yourself. But I agree with the sentiment of a former reviewer, wholeheartedly, don't spend money on it. Borrow it, rent it, or get it used. You'll kick yourself in the shins if you buy this new and in HC (doni forbid)16 von 16 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Too much of a good thing.....Von Peter

BerlinSo this is the fifth part in Ayla's long journey. Looking at the first four novels in this series, I still think that the first is the best. "Clan of the Cave Bear" and the vivid and interesting description and insights into the world of the Neanderthalmen from the point of view of a homo sapiens. "Valley of the horses" was good, too, though I enjoyed reading about Ayla's solitary life much more than about Jondalar's travels. "Mammoth hunters" felt a bit drawn out about Ayla's complications with Jondalar. "Plains of passage" could have been shortened,too."Shelters of stone" is too much of a good thing. It could have been considerably shortened and really does not cover enough new ground for the nearly 800 pages it takes the author to tell the story. Story, what story? At times, it feels like the author is rehashing old stories and summarizes what happened in the previous four novels. I hope the sixth part - I will read it anyway, no matter how critical I sound here - has more to offer.The storyline is really slim here. One other thing that is a bit monotonous at this point is the fact that Ayla, the main character, does not seem to have any flaws at all. She is good through and through. She become almost bland at this point and boring as a character. Maybe "Clan of Cavebear" was more interesting to read, because the Neanderthalmen had more character flaws than the homo sapiens in this novel. Looking at our specimen today, I find that hard to believe.I could have done without the graphic description of them making love. It seemed a bit superfluous and really did not add much new to the storyline or the characters.If you have never read anything by the author, I suggest you start out with "Clan of the Cave bear" - this book is really more for the "dyed-in-the-wool-fans" of the author. I would call myself one, but I even I hope for something better next time.

KurzbeschreibungAyla and Jondalar have reached home: the Ninth Cave of the Zelandonii, the old stone age settlement in the region known today as south-west France. Ayla has much to learn from the Zelandonii as well as much to teach them. Jondalar's family are initially wary of the beautiful young woman he has brought back, with her strange accent and her tame wolf and horses. She is delighted when she meets Zelandoni, the spiritual leader of her people, a fellow healer with whom she can share her medicinal skills. After the rigours and dangers that have characterised her extraordinary life, Ayla yearns for peace and tranquillity; to be Jondalar's mate and to have children. But her unique spiritual gifts cannot be ignored, and even as she gives birth to their eagerly-awaited child, she is coming to accept that she has a greater role to play in the destiny of the Zelandonii..deJean Auel's fifth novel about Ayla, the Cro-Magnon cavewoman raised by Neanderthals, is the biggest comeback bestseller in .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 fiance? Ayla vows 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 woolly rhino-hunting adventure. It's an enveloping fact-based fantasy, a genre-crossing time trip to the Ice Age. --Tim Appelo.comJean Auel's fifth novel about Ayla, the Cro-Magnon cavewoman raised by Neanderthals, is the biggest comeback bestseller in .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 fiance? Ayla vows 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 woolly rhino-hunting adventure. It's an enveloping fact-based fantasy, a genre-crossing time trip to the Ice Age. --Tim Appelo