



## The Mailbox

By Audrey Shafer

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**The Mailbox** By Audrey Shafer

**For readers of *Unbroken* and *Flags of Our Fathers*, *The Mailbox* is a sympathetic portrayal of veterans and the burdens they carry throughout their lives.**

Vernon Culligan had been dead to the town of Draydon, Virginia, so long that when the crusty Vietnam vet finally died, only one person noticed. Twelve-year-old Gabe grew up in the foster care system until a social worker located his Uncle Vernon two years before. When he comes home to discover that his uncle has died of a heart attack, he's terrified of going back into the system--so he tells no one. The next day, he discovers a strange note in his mailbox:

I HAVE A SECRET. DO NOT BE AFRAID.

And his uncle's body is gone.

Thus begins a unique correspondence destined to save the two people that depended on Vernon for everything. Through flashbacks, we learn about Gabe and Vernon's relationship, and how finding each other saved them both from lives of suffering. But eventually, Vernon's death will be discovered, and how will Gabe and the mystery note writer learn to move forward?

*The Mailbox* is not a story about death--though it begins with a death. It's also not a story about Vietnam vets, although the author works with Vietnam veterans and wrote this novel, in part, to illuminate their sacrifices and suffering. *The Mailbox* is a story about connections--about how two people in need can save each other.

### Praise for *The Mailbox*:

#### **Junior Library Guild Selection**

**A Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year**

**A Librarians' Choices Booklist Selection**

“Shafer’s narrative is **heartfelt, earnest and moving**. . . and conveys the power of memory to help heal wounds.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Warm and moving, it is **an evocative picture of the weblike nature of human existence** and the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate experiences.”—*School Library Journal*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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**The Mailbox By Audrey Shafer Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-7—Complex and believably imperfect characters emerge from the first page to the last in this debut novel. Gabe, 12, had been shuffled around the foster-care system for years, until, as a 9-year-old, he was taken to Virginia to an uncle he had never met. Now, two years later, he comes home after the first day of sixth grade to find Uncle Vernon dead. Numb with fear and grief, he tells no one, but the body disappears and mysterious cards begin to appear in his mailbox. As he mourns for his uncle and struggles to honor his memory, readers get to know the strong and caring people surrounding him, and to see the enormous impact made by one scarred and cantankerous, but loving, old man. Uncle Vernon's colloquial voice; the details of successive school days and vignettes of what it means to have a best friend; horrifying glimpses of the Vietnam War, in which Vernon had served, and its aftermath; and sketches of compassionate adults make up some of the bits and pieces of the story. The book is much more than the sum of these parts, however. Warm and moving, it is an evocative picture of the weblike nature of human existence and the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate experiences.—*Faith Brautigam, Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL*  
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Review

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## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Sharon Hollars:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a e-book your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand up than other is high.

For yourself who want to start reading a new book, we give you this The Mailbox book as basic and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Jetta Butler:**

Reading a guide tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world may share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to the book. One of them is this The Mailbox.

**Adelina Thompson:**

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of the books in the top collection in your reading list will be The Mailbox. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking up and review this book you can get many advantages.

**Helen Massey:**

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