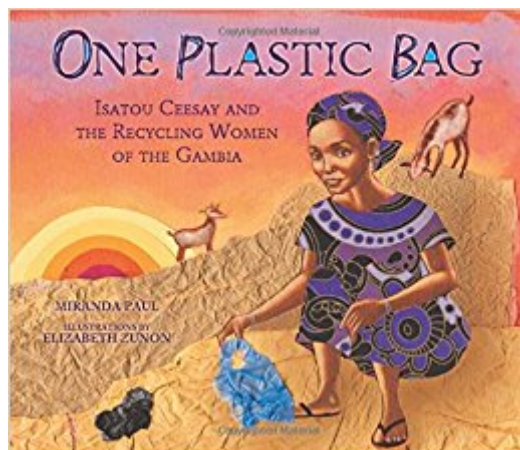




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One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay And The Recycling Women Of The Gambia (Millbrook Picture Books)



Synopsis

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred. The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. They killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change. Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD480L (What's this?)

Series: Millbrook Picture Books

Library Binding: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,224 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Money & Saving](#) #39 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics > Environmental Economics](#) #41 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Gr 1-4 • The simple format of this picture book belies the strength of its content, a story lovingly supported by charming collage illustrations. As a girl, Ceesay realized that the goats on which her village relied were dying because they were eating plastic bags. She also saw that people were tossing the used bags on the ground just as they had always thrown away their baskets when no longer useful—except the plastic bags, unlike the baskets, weren't

biodegradable. So Ceesay figured out how to use crochet, a skill with which the villagers were already familiar, to make purses out of the plastic bags. Simple but lyrical text conveys this beautiful, thought-provoking tale of ecological awareness and recycling ("The basket tips. One fruit tumbles. Then two. Then ten. "). An inspiring account. —Dorcas Hand, Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston, TX

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WHY I LIKE THIS BOOK: One Plastic Bag has so many hooks. First, Miranda incorporates Gambian culture and language into the text, immersing the reader into Isatou's world. Second, the book has great read aloud-ability. Miranda uses a repeating refrain: "first one, then two, then ten," which makes kids want to chant along. Finally, who can resist a story about one person seeing an insurmountable problem and taking a small step that leads to a giant change? **RESOURCES/ACTIVITIES:** One Plastic Bag's Web site is packed with activities and information, including a PowerPoint about The Gambia and instructions for turning plastic bags into purses.

This gorgeously illustrated true story shows how Isatou Ceesay and other women in her small village in the Gambia solved a big problem: discarded plastic bags, which were killing livestock and providing breeding places for disease-carrying mosquitos. She and her friends cleaned the bags, cut them into long continuous strips (you can find directions on how to do this online--many places call it "plarn" for "plastic yarn"), and crocheted them into change purses, which now they sell, both locally and abroad. Author Miranda Paul has spent many years teaching in the Gambia and is a founder of the We Need Diverse Books movement, and illustrator Elizabeth Zunon has also illustrated The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, the story of William Kamkwamba, who taught himself

to build a windmill to provide his village with electricity. It's a great read--highly, highly recommended.

A wonderful book. I served with the Peace Corps volunteer mentioned in the book. I love the illustrations and the simple and powerful explanation of the project. The story of Isatou identifying the problem of plastic bag litter and then her creating an effective solution was inspiring. I even started a similar project in my village after being trained by Peggy! I highly recommend this timely and engaging book.

There are so many things I love about this book. First, the story about an incredible woman who used her vision and intelligence to start an enterprise that teaches young women so many skills. Then the way the story is told by a very gifted writer. And to top it off, the illustrations are beautiful. This book transcends age and gender and race, it will appeal to any audience, and can be used with young children to teach them early the importance of recycling and protecting our environment everywhere.

Miranda Paul chronicles the inspirational journey taken by Isatou Ceesay. Isatou takes it upon herself to collect discarded plastic bags and recycle them. These bags pooled water bringing mosquitoes and disease. Livestock died from eating the bags and gardens choked on them. Isatou brings change by gathering her friends to clean the bags and weave them into beautiful purses. Selling the purses earns money to replace dead livestock and build a healthy community. Elizabeth Zunon's vibrant illustrations depict the amazing transformation made by one woman's mission to save her village.

I have to admit that I am partial to this book. I was actually serving in Peace Corps in The Gambia when Peggy (mentioned in book) was also serving. Peggy is the one that started the women's group that this book is written about. I LOVE the fact that the women's group is flourishing like it is!

Love, love, love this book! Isatou is truly an amazing woman and her story needed to be told. Thanks to author Miranda Paul for bringing Isatou Ceesay's story to the hands of children across America! I've found that the story is engaging for a wide range of students (1-8 so far, have not read it to high schoolers yet) and the illustrations are bright and colorful for little ones as well. A simply

told story of how one person can stand up and make big change if they have the determination. A great addition to any school or classroom library!

Great book to get kids, and their adults, thinking of the consequences of garbage vs reusing and recycling.

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