Book Review Title: Chained Author: Lynne Kelly Review: The story covers the suffering of people who lived in poverty, slavery and injustice to animals. In this story, a young boy by the name – Hastin tries to help his family situation by taking up a difficult job at a young age. He hopes to repay the loan taken by his mother for the treatment of his little sister.

However, Hastin is being cheated by Timir to take up a job at his circus where he was ill-treated and was asked to do many tasks which were not informed. There he meets Ne-min and Sharad. Ne-min helps Hastin to take care of the elephants. Sharad trains the elephant to do tricks with a hook. Hastin tries to escape but he is stopped because of his love for Nandita the elephant. Hastin takes a journey of learning about elephants from Ne-min and had mistakenly been involved in an accident that killed his favourite elephant that had been saved. Sharad was angry at elephants because his father Kiran was killed accidently by being trampled over by an elephant while trying to escape from a circus tiger. Timir tries to sell Nandita to Ravi Kapur but Nandita faints in the circus due to heart stroke as a result of over work. Once the elephant recovers, the events change.

Hastin saves Sharad’s life. Ne-min after being hit by Timir becomes sick and dies after talking about his experience with elephants to Hastin. Sharad gives the keys to free Hastin. After safely leaving Nandita in the wild, he returns home and is re-united with his sister and pet dog Raj. This story brings out the love and respect a young boy has towards his family.

Thus, Hastin proves to be a responsible and hardworking young boy. This story shows us the cruelty shown to elephants and also injustice and child labour. I felt the story was a little sad. The author of this book writes stories that makes us to think and see how we are treating our elephants. Rositta Joan | Vidyodaya