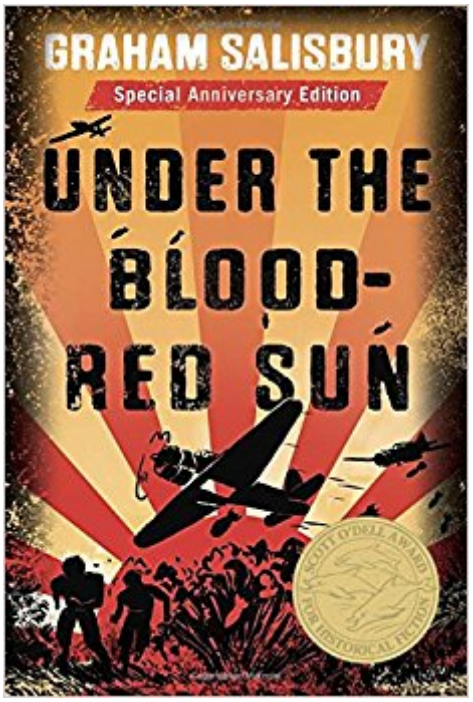
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Under The Blood-Red Sun (Prisoners Of The Empire)



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Synopsis

Tomi was born in Hawaii. His grandfather and parents were born in Japan, and came to America to escape poverty.World War II seems far away from Tomi and his friends, who are too busy playing ball on their eighth-grade team, the Rats.But then Pearl Harbor is attacked by the Japanese, and the United States declares war on Japan. Japanese men are rounded up, and TomiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s father and grandfather are arrested. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a terrifying time to be Japanese in America. But one thing doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t change: the loyalty of TomiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s buddies, the Rats.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Salisbury (Blue Skin of the Sea) again invokes a Hawaiian setting for this novel, which chronicles the trials of a Japanese American boy and his immigrant family in 1941. Tomi's fisherman father and housekeeper mother work hard to support Tomi, his younger sister and grandfather in their cramped servants' house. While he embraces everything about being American, including a passion for baseball, Tomi struggles to find some middle ground between his modern life and the nationalism and traditional values his parents and Grandpa try to impart. But as WWII intensifies and Pearl Harbor is bombed, Tomi's family faces racism, violence and hardship at every turn. Tomi's father

and grandfather are taken away and incarcerated, leaving Tomi to worry if he can perform honorably as man of the house. Salisbury skillfully describes Tomi's emotional highs and lows, and has a particular knack for realistically portraying the camaraderie and dialogue between boyhood chums. The slow-evolving plot drags in a few spots (especially the play-by-play descriptions of baseball games), but readers are rewarded with steadily building dramatic tension in the novel's second half and a satisfyingly open-ended finale. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 5-8-September, 1941 is a time of increasing confusion for Tomi Nakaji, 13, who lives on the island of Oahu. As if his gruff, stroke-slowed grandfather, who insists on waving his Japanese flag around the yard, isn't enough, he has to contend with Keet Wilson, the bully next door. From a treetop, Tomi and his haole (white) best friend, Billy, witness in disbelief the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Tomi finds the horrors personalized as his father, a poor fisherman, and later his grandfather are arrested and his father's fishing partner is killed. Tomi assumes responsibility for the family honor and katama, or samurai sword. Racial/ethnic tension is subtly portrayed throughout the novel, but escalates following the Japanese attack- Tomi's mother loses her job as a housekeeper and Billy "disappears" for awhile, though he returns as a loyal and helpful friend. Tomi faces his fears and becomes assertive enough to stand up to Keet without besmirching his family's honor and risks his life to see his imprisoned father. Character development of major figures is good, the setting is warmly realized, and the pace of the story moves gently though inexorably forward. While it may be a bit more aimed than pitched, the ending leaves readers confident that the Nakajis will survive.Joel Shoemaker, Southeast Jr. High School, Iowa City, IACopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Tomi liked to play baseball at diamond grass. The field shone like diamonds when the dewdrops sparkled in the morning sun. Tomi found refuge there, away from the chaos of life in Honolulu.Mama knew all about chaos. SheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d fled the poverty of Japan by becoming a picture bride, sailing to Honolulu to marry a sugarcane worker sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d never met. Her future husband was killed in a gambling fight, leaving Mama stranded in a fishermanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hut. Papa heard her story and claimed her for his own.Grampa loved Japan. He took great pride in his enormous Japanese flag, washing it with care and leaving it hanging to dry in the open air. When Tomi came home and saw it waving in the breeze, he was rattled. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Grampa! Take that thing down!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• In 1941, Japanese were not always welcome on the streets

of Hawaii.One Sunday morning, Tomi and his friend Billy were playing ball when clouds of smoke spiraled into the sky. Explosions rocked Pearl Harbor. Tomi was shocked to see amber planes emblazoned with a blood-red sun. Japanese planes were bombing his home!As the Japanese warplanes bombarded the coast, Papa was out fishing in his sampan. American forces opened fire on every ship without an American flag. Papa took a bullet to his leg, and was hauled away to Sand Island. Within days, a black car arrived at TomiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s home. Two huge men had come for Grampa. They covered GrampaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s mouth as he screamed, and shoved Tomi into the weeds.Hatred for Japan surged across the island. Japanese fathers were arrested or killed, leaving their children to fend for themselves. Mama was fired. TomiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family was watched with open suspicion. Tomi knew the day had come to lead his family, long before he was ready, with enemies on every side.Under the Blood-Red Sun provides a riveting view of what Japanese Americans endured at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Loyalties were tested to the extreme as military and volunteer brigades strung barbed wire around the schools and excavated bomb shelters in public parks. As he strives to free his innocent father, Tomi is incredibly brave, facing angry guards and cruel soldiers who would not hesitate to shoot him. In the midst of all the hostilities, bold friends bring Tomi gifts of love and hope that brighten his days of fear.Graham Salisbury has received numerous awards for his work, including the Scott OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Dell Award for Historical Fiction, the Library of Congress Notable ChildrenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Book of the Year, and the Best Books for Young Adults (American Library Association).--Kate Calina

The historical portion of the book was fascinating. However; in the personal/interpersonal portion showed a bias on the part of the author. He drapes the story in the WWII era but follows many others into the politically correct understanding of interpersonal relations which seek "a perfect life" for every child without the failures, hurts, and adventures that have built character in generations of Americans who dared much and achieved much.

Live in Hawaii and have read many novels about Pearl Harbor and the history of the islands. Yet I found this book interesting because it is told basically from the perspective of the youth who witnessed the Japanese attack and the aftermath including the effects upon lives, friendship, and relationships. This story is being made into a movie which I am looking forward to seeing.It is definitely worth reading.

My son had to read this in high school. I still remember this story today. Great read.

I really enjoyed reading this book with my children. We read it as part of our school curriculum. It was interesting to read from the perspective of a child going through the terrible times in Hawaii during World War II. I ran the gamut of emotions while reading this and that, to me, is indicative of a well-written book. I highly recommend it to anyone who reads chapter books, young or not, who is also interested in military history or American history.

This is so much like the stories my husband tells about his childhood on the Big Island, though my husband is a little younger than the protagonist. Salisbury captures the place and time beautifully. I could "see" these characters and feel the surroundings. This is the mark of a truly good writer. It isn't just a book for children!

I probably would not have read this book, but a movie is being made of the book in Hawaii right now. My son, who will have a small speaking part, told me about the book. It is a well written story about the lives of several young boys and their families on Oahu just before and after December 7, 1941. One of the boys is a Japanese American and his father and grandfather are arrested and imprisoned. The book is a good pictured of life on Oahu during this difficult time. The book is a recommended book for young adults, but older adults can enjoy and learn from the book as well.

Having lived thru the air raids and bombing, this book brought back memories and touched on the prejudices against Asians (then we were called Orientals) at the time. Asians couldn't move into certain sections of Honolulu until after the war ended and a lot of the haoles (Caucasians) moved back to the mainland (continental USA). Also know the parents,(the Matshyoshi's), of the lead actor, so it made viewing the film more personal.

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