

How Dare the Sun Rise by Sandra Uwiringiyimana

Sandra Uwiringiyimana grew up surrounded by war. Her tribe was used to moving from place to place in the Democratic Republic in the Congo. Yet, Sandra remembers a bright and happy childhood, filled with friendly neighbors, good friends, learning at school, and family fun. Until one day, Sandra's family and tribe are driven from their home in Uvira and put in a refugee camp, where soon rebels come and murder, destroy, and burn. As the survivors try to pick up their lives from the rubble of the massacre, the United Nations starts a refugee program that moves Sandra's family to the United States. But is America truly the shining land of riches Sandra had believed? How will she find healing in this strange place that seems to dislike the color of her skin?

Inspiring, real, and moving, this memoir follows Sandra as she hurts and heals, finds her voice and loses it, and realizes her place in a world that tells her she has none. It is a story about coming to terms with loss, creating your own home, respecting your culture, and fighting for what you believe in. Sandra doesn't flinch away from talking about the hard things - racism, assault, mental health issues, etc. - in any of the cultures she spent time in around the globe. Yet, the book remains deeply hopeful and optimistic about the future, and humanity.

In light of some of the current events our culture is facing, I found *How Dare the Sun Rise* to be a book that challenged my perceptions and experiences in an enriching and moving way. As I read, I feel I grew more aware of the world around me and the struggles I might not even realize those around me are going through. I would highly recommend it to anyone!

How Dare the Sun Rise is a 2020 Abe Lincoln Award winner. This book is a rating of B-14 because of the descriptions of violence in its various forms, which could be intense for young readers.