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Black, White, Other: In Search Of Nina Armstrong



Synopsis

Identity Crisis. As a biracial teen, Nina is accustomed to a life of varied hues—mocha-colored skin, ringed brown hair streaked with red, a darker brother, a black father, a white mother. When her parents decide to divorce, the rainbow of Nina's existence is reduced to a much starker reality. Shifting definitions and relationships are playing out all around her, and new boxes and lines seem to be getting drawn every day. Between the fractures within her family and the racial tensions splintering her hometown, Nina feels caught in perpetual battle. Feeling stranded in the nowhere land between racial boundaries, and struggling for personal independence and identity, Nina turns to the story of her great-great-grandmother's escape from slavery. Is there direction in the tale of her ancestor? Can Nina build her own compass when landmarks from her childhood stop guiding the way?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the bit of history, but most of all being able to relate. Never quite fit in for the same reasons, so the perspective was great. As a parent in a divorced family it was also nice to read from the POV of the child.

This was not "Imitation of Life" but along the same lines. I question whether she ever found herself. This was an interesting view of the identity issues facing teens that could be compounded by being biracial.

I lost myself in this book, like Nina lost herself to Sarah's story. Very thought provoking. I am curious to find my own family history

Good story for bi racial young people trying to put race in perspective.

The author gives an excellent description of the issues biracial children, and children in general, deal with in today's environment. Both positive and negative. At the same time she gives a well researched history of the past and insight of what slaves experienced. Lester's "Novel within a Novel" is very engaging and pulls together the present and the past. I am giving all of my Grandchildren a copy. This book should be required reading in schools for every girl and boy, biracial or not. It would open up some positive discussions on the subject. Just about everyone in the U.S. is biracial but do not appear to be. I have three sons who are biracial. Caucasian, African American, Native American. They do not look biracial. I just had my "Genetic Profiling" done and discovered I am also biracial. By a good margin. Caucasian & African American. I had no idea. I am looking forward to reading more novels from this author.

It was interesting for the story to be told from the point of view of both Sarah and Nina Armstrong. Their situations are closely related because Nina dealt with her situations based on what Sarah did when she was a slave. This book was very historical and educational.

I had to read this book for an adolescent lit class. It was a quick read with a lot of things to think about in terms of theming and style. Overall, pretty good for a teen book.

Wow, this is a wonderful book. It was hard to put down and when I got to the end, I wanted more.

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