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Saba: Under The Hyena's Foot (Girls Of Many Lands)



Book Information

Age Range: 10 and up

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

Series: Girls of Many Lands

Paperback: 207 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Twelve-year-old Saba is a regular girl living in the country of Ethiopia in 1846. Like any regular girl she has a brother, Mesfin, and a strict grandmother whom she adores greatly. Everything is well for her until she and her brother disobey and venture out of their home, where they are kidnapped and brought to the royal palace. It is there that Saba finally learns of her true identity. At first, Saba, keenly unaware of the dangers of the court, can only delight in her new found surroundings. Unfortunately, innocence can not last forever, and she learns of a deadly threat to her and her brother...one that threatens their very lives and freedom. Yet, Saba is determined to use her wits to save her and her brother from the treacherous inner working of the court. I was very much fascinated with this book for it was one of the very few books that talks about the Ethiopia royal family in any great detail. Saba is a strong first-person narrator and you will enjoy her way of expressing herself. A definite must-read.

The theme of this book is many things. The book starts out where she's from and her family, giving a background of the character. Then it fades into her being kidnapped and trying to figure out how to get home. After that, she finds out that she's really part of a royal family. I'm not going to give away the ending, though. The main character's name is, as the title states, Saba. She lives in Ethiopia

with her grandmother and her brother in the woods. Saba is, at first, trying to figure out why they never go into town and why they are so secluded. Then she is trying to figure out why her grandmother never told her that she is really part of a royal family. After that, she learns the hard way why nobody ever told her that she was part of a royal family. Some of the other characters are her grandmother and her brother. Her grandpa, who died, and her parents, who she was told were dead. Later many more characters are added. This book is set in eighteen hundred, forty-six Ethiopia. The geography was rocky, mountainous and very hilly. In this time period, Ethiopia is in the middle of a war. There isn't really a major problem in this story. Actually there are just a bunch of smaller problems. First, when she's kidnapped it's how to get home. Then when she's at the palace, closer to the end, it's how to get out of there before she's married off! Like I said, the first problem is her being kidnapped. As to her really getting home, that isn't really accomplished in this book. As to the second problem I stated, she is helped by the many friends she's made at the palace to escape the grounds. Once she leaves the palace, she rescues her brother and they start to leave, which is where the book leaves off.

This book was a little confusing to me, but I still liked it. It's about this African girl who was kidnapped along with her brother, and taken to a palace, where she learns a big family secret.

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