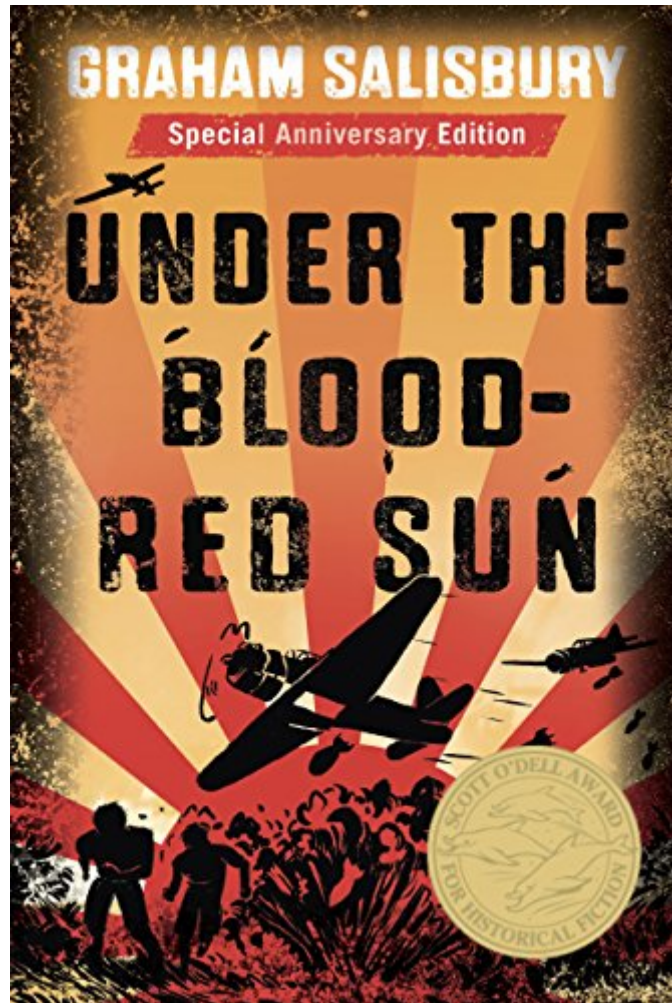




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# Under The Blood-Red Sun



## 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 Tomi's father and grandfather are arrested. It's a terrifying time to be Japanese in America. But one thing doesn't change: the loyalty of Tomi's buddies, the Rats.

## Book Information

File Size: 4481 KB

Print Length: 258 pages

Publisher: Wendy Lamb Books; Reprint edition (December 25, 2008)

Publication Date: December 30, 2008

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B001OERNVA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #155,489 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 21st Century #46 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice

#94 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Historical Fiction > United States

## Customer Reviews

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. She'd fled the poverty of Japan by becoming a picture bride, sailing to Honolulu to marry a sugarcane worker she'd never met. Her future husband was killed in a gambling fight, leaving Mama stranded in a fisherman'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. "Grampa! Take that thing down!" 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 Tomi's home. Two huge men had come for Grampa. They covered Grampa'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. Tomi'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 O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, the Library of Congress Notable Children'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 picture 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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