



Copper Sun

Sharon M. Draper

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Copper Sun is the epic story of a young girl torn from her African village, sold into slavery, and stripped of everything she has ever known—except hope.

Copper Sun Details

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Author : Sharon M. Draper

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From Reader Review Copper Sun for online ebook

Jean says

This novel detailing the experience of an African slave in the 1700's was a page turner for me. I sat down to read a few chapters and finished it in one reading. It explores many aspects of slavery beyond the African experience including indentured servants and the status of women in the past. Most of the historical information (much of which is horribly disturbing) was not new to me, but I had never heard of Fort Mose (sanctuary for runaways in Florida) before. Though this was a work of historical fiction, I think Draper imbued her characters with 21st century attitudes. For instance, though at first Polly feels superior to the slaves she is forced to live with, her transformation into feeling that they are her equals seems to come a little too easily. I think the cultural attitudes of her day (and her own personal circumstances) would have made it much more difficult for her to leap to total acceptance of her common humanity with slaves. Come to think of it, all of Draper's characters just seem to fall a little flat. At any rate, I think adolescents will read this book (it is a page turner), and learn a little history in the process.

Terrell says

Fifteen-year-old Amari loves life in her home village in Africa. She spends her days strolling along the stream, daydreaming about her handsome future husband, teasing her little brother, and avoiding chores. But everything changes the day the visitors arrive. Her world changes forever as the strangers begin killing the adults and young children.

Amari stands stunned as her parents drop dead from gunfire. Her little brother urges her to run into the jungle for safety; they try, only for Amari to be captured and her brother to be shot dead.??

Upon arrival in America, Amari is sold to the highest bidder.

Amari meets Polly, a white girl. The two girls from different ends of the earth bond together in order to survive.

The whole black person meets white person, then struggle ensues until they eventually come to love one another thing is overdone; but Draper doesn't spend a lot of energy trying to sell that aspect of the book, which is why the book thrives.

Cana Rensberger says

I have been a fan of Sharon Draper for some time. She is a master at writing realistic fiction. COPPER SUN is her first historical fiction and it is amazing as well as frighteningly authentic.

This book follows the trials and tribulations of Amari, a fifteen year-old African maiden. After witnessing the slaughter of both the old and young in her African village, including her parents and her young brother, she is chained, by feet, hands, and neck, lined up, and herded miles on foot to the ocean by pale skinned visitors with fire sticks. She watches her fellow Africans suffer incomprehensible humiliation and death at the hands of their captors as they are shipped like animal cargo across the ocean. The life that awaits her is nothing like she could have ever imagined.

Amari must adapt to life as a purchased slave on a rice plantation, a life that includes atrocities committed upon her by her white owners. She meets Polly, an indentured servant who has dreams of making it to the big house and being a fine lady of standing. Instead, Polly lives in the slave quarters with Amari and finds she's given the chore of civilizing Amari, now called Myna, and teaching her enough English to work. After witnessing murder, the two girls find themselves thrown together in a desperate run for freedom.

This is not just another book about slavery. This is a book about something real and tangible. Ms. Draper's writing is so vivid that you can smell the rank odors beneath ship. You can feel the pain of being lashed with a whip. Your throat will constrict at the heart wrenching pain of a mother and child being forced apart. You will also celebrate the strength and spirit of Amari and those she inspires. COPPER SUN won the Coretta Scott King Award. This is a book I will make sure goes on my classroom shelves. I give COPPER SUN a gold star!

Elena Mills says

Sharon M. Draper is a stupendous author. I am in awe of this book. It was terrifying and powerful and the fact that everything was based on real facts shameful, and makes me look at my ancestry in a totally different way. This book made me laugh and cry and I got so attached to the characters. I think everyone should read this book, and learn not only about slaves, and what it was like to be a young girl as a slave, but also about being an indentured servant and what that form of servitude was like. This book was truly moving.

Lexy says

I also read this book in high school and Anthony was reading it I thought it was really brutal what they did to the African-American.

Hazel says

Sharon Draper's Copper Sun tells a riveting story of an African girl , named Amari , living in Africa who has everything going her way. She's engaged to the most handsome man in the village , her father is a chief , and she loves her family. It seems that nothing could go wrong until white-skinned strangers arrive in seemingly good intentions of making friends and trading. When there is a bursting sound of a gun shot and everything turns into a chaotic mess of smoke and dust as everyone in the village , very young or old , is killed and all the young adults are rounded up for capture. Amari is in pure shock and horror as she is chained and realizes her entire family was just slaughtered. Amari goes through being beaten , raped , fed very little , being constantly chained and living in waste in a hull of a ship. Although she feels like dying , instead of enduring this misery , with encouragement from a new found mother , on the voyage , she some how finds the courage to carry on.

This is an extremely powerful story of courage and trust that is sure to have readers of any kind wanting it.

Denise says

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper is a must read novel for everyone. This riveting novel was written by Draper, a granddaughter of a slave. This outstanding novel is about the harsh realities of slavery. But, this novel also demonstrates that there are people in this world eager to do the right thing. The main character is Amari, a 15 year old girl from Africa who was sold in the Carolinas. Amari's character is strong, confident, emotional and determined.....a definite role model. Polly's character is a perfect secondary one to Amari, leading to a unlikely but lasting friendship. The characters are vivid, the plot captivating and the descriptions emotional.

"May your feet bring you to where your heart is."

Terry says

There are few books I recommend without hesitation, and this is one them. For years, Gary Paulsen's Night John has been one of the titles I try to lead all high school students to. I think Copper Sun is better. As others have mentioned, it isn't a pleasant read at times, but it is absolutely honest in its rendition of a slice of American history. I hope many people, teens and adults, will read it and consider how the past isn't dead; we all live within its long shadow.

Gianina Gray says

this book is very sad,sad,sad in the beginning,but the end is very spirit lifting,with a little bit of a twist.

Fly FreeBird says

I don't know what to say... I'm speechless. It made me cry so much.

Shannon says

Read Harder 2018: Colonial or Post-Colonial Literature

I started one book for this challenge (Roxane Gay's Untamed State) and found it too dark. I chose this one instead because it's YA and I thought that might make it easier to read. It did, but just. The start of the book is most difficult: we meet Amari, a young girl of the Ewe tribe. In short order, her village is burnt to the ground, its population decimated and Amari and a few other young people are taken into slavery. It was a heartbreaking read and the story didn't get any easier when Amari made it to South Carolina.

This was an interesting book - Amari meets an indentured white girl and they are thrown together through life at their plantation - but still difficult to read. It, of course, made me wonder why humans are so awful to each other. And it made me wonder what our world might be like if we chose collaboration over the quest for power.

If you want to know more about slavery before the United States was a country, this book is a good choice. Just plan to have a lighter read on tap to follow.

Lola says

Sometimes I just stand back and wonder how humanity can be so cruel. Really, the things humans do to each other are revolting. Rape, murder, abuse, an ongoing list that only seems to grow as time goes on. It's the reason I can't watch the news ever. There are just too many bad things happening on this planet, and I don't need to hear about every single one of them. Of course, such a thing was unavoidable while reading the Copper Sun.

My first reaction to the novel was horror. I was horrified by the treatment of Amari by Clay Derby. I couldn't believe what he made her do and how Polly didn't even think it was a big deal. I had heard of this practice before, but I had never thought of it to this extent. It made my skin crawl. How could someone do that? Of course, many other things horrified me in this novel. Amari's people were betrayed by people of their own color, a rival village. Her parents and little brother are killed, and the boy she is to marry taken away. Despite this, Amari's spirit does not break. She tries to survive during the voyage, learning English from one of the crew. That is the beauty of this story. Amari may go through hard times, but she doesn't lose her spirit. She keeps surviving, gaining strength from her relationships with Polly, Tidbit, and Teenie. Ultimately, she, Polly, and Tidbit escape to start a new life. Another interesting aspect to this story is the addition of Fort Mose. You don't really hear about slaves escaping to Fort Mose, and I think it was a cool choice of location to make. Fort Mose, though only operational a few years, is a significant and often ignored part history leading up to the Civil War. I was glad to hear a little about it.

I'd definitely recommend this. It is excellently written and aimed for young adults, something that always is something I look for when reading about slavery. Definitely looking forward to reading more of Draper's work.

Bookishrealm says

I devoured this book!! It was so good. I would warn that this book is graphic and doesn't hold back from describing the horrors of slavery. I couldn't help but love the characters and admire their strength. It'd amazing to know that there are children who went through this same thing and survived. There's a lot to learn from this novel and I can't wait to do a full review.

Emi Guzman says

Copper Sun was the first book I listed for Mrs. Augustine's literature circles. Considering the fact that I am usually too aggravated by the subject of history to even taste some historical fiction, I was impressed. The story is told from two peoples' perspectives (I always appreciate this writing style) Amari and Polly, but is mostly built around a fifteen year old African girl named Amari. Amari once had a perfect life in her Ewe village in Africa. Until one day, white men attacked her village and killed all the children and elderly. The young and healthy like her were kept barely alive and later sold into slavery in America; Amari was a birthday gift for a plantation owner's son. Life on the plantation was a tragedy, and after she could not take

anymore of it, Amari along with an indentured servant girl called Polly, and another slave's son named Tidbit, took off to find the freedom that they craved so strongly. They do find this freedom in Spanish territory called Fort Mose where they get to start a new life. My favorite quote from the book would be, "As long as you remember chile, ain't nothin' ever gone." Honestly it is probably the most popular quote from Copper Sun, but it's not overrated at all. This quote was stated by Teenie (Tidbit's mother whom is a slave who specializes in cooking) and directed to Amari, but the idea came up various times after the fact. In fact the reason why I love this quote is because Amari holds on to these words and reminds herself that the beautiful background/past that she has is not gone.

Maya B says

excellent read! the author made the characters so real. very vivid details. the book is labeled young adult but I felt it's for a more mature audience.
