



Same Sun Here

By Silas House, Neela Vaswani

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In this extraordinary novel in letters, an Indian immigrant girl in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son find strength and perspective by sharing their true selves across the miles.

Meena and River have a lot in common: fathers forced to work away from home to make ends meet, grandmothers who mean the world to them, and faithful dogs. But Meena is an Indian immigrant girl living in New York City's Chinatown, while River is a Kentucky coal miner's son. As Meena's family studies for citizenship exams and River's town faces devastating mountaintop removal, this unlikely pair become pen pals, sharing thoughts and, as their camaraderie deepens, discovering common ground in their disparate experiences. With honesty and humor, Meena and River bridge the miles between them, creating a friendship that inspires bravery and defeats cultural misconceptions. Narrated in two voices, each voice distinctly articulated by a separate gifted author, this chronicle of two lives powerfully conveys the great value of being and having a friend and the joys of opening our lives to others who live beneath the same sun.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-7-Meena, a recent immigrant from India, lives in Manhattan's Chinatown with her family. Through a program arranged by their schools, she becomes a pen pal with River, who lives in rural Kentucky and is the son of a coal miner. They exchange letters via snail mail and, as a result, learn about each other and themselves. Sharing day-to-day activities, secrets, opinions, and questions, Meena and River start to break down barriers and talk about their lives. Their letters reveal their many similarities and differences. They both have a close relationship with their grandmothers, love dogs, and their fathers work far away in order to provide for their families. They maintain their correspondence as they go through some difficult moments in their lives such as when Meena faces the death of her grandmother in India and when River's town faces environmental concerns related to coal mining. The novel (Candlewick, 2012) is perfectly narrated by authors Silas House (River) and Neela Vaswani (Meena), further invigorating the story with their Southern and Indian accents. This tale about debunking cultural stereotypes, friendship, and finding common ground will resonate with listeners.-Katie Llera, Sayreville Middle School, NJ(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

Even better than reading a refreshingly honest story by one talented writer is reading one by two such writers. House and Vaswani alternate between the voices of Meena and River. The two connect as pen pals, and their letters reveal the unusual intersections and the stark contrasts in their lives... Readers will feel confident that their friendship will get them through whatever lies ahead.

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

This tender and breathtakingly honest story about unlikely friendships and finding common ground will captivate readers... In an era when social media permeates every area of our lives, Meena and River's old-fashioned camaraderie through letters feels refreshing and true. Audiences will revel in this lovely story about a boy and girl who are not so different from one another after all.

—School Library Journal (starred review)

About the Author

Silas House is the nationally best-selling author of *Eli the Good* as well as the award-winning novels *Clay's Quilt*, *A Parchment of Leaves*, and *The Coal Tattoo*. He is an associate professor at Berea College and lives in eastern Kentucky.

Neela Vaswani is the award-winning author of *You Have Given Me a Country* and *Where the Long Grass Bends*. Her work has received an American Book Award, an O. Henry Prize, and a ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award. She teaches at Spalding University's MFA in writing program and is the founder of the Storylines Project with the New York Public Library. Neela Vaswani lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth Michel:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the time or they will get wide range

of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be Same Sun Here.

Michael Thompson:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specifically book entitled Same Sun Here the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The Same Sun Here giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life on this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Sandra Romero:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, you think reading a book really can hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Same Sun Here which is obtaining the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

Lula Day:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got scholars? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. So you know that little person including reading or as examining become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important along with book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update with regards to something by book. Numerous books that can you take to be your object. One of them is actually Same Sun Here.

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