



Red Leaves

Sita Brahmachari

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Aisha is a thirteen-year-old refugee living in London. Happy for the first time since leaving her war-torn home, she is devastated when her foster mother announces that a new family has been found for her and she will be moving on. Feeling rejected and abandoned, Aisha packs her bags and runs away, seeking shelter in the nearby woods.

Meanwhile, a few doors down, twelve-year-old Zak is trying to cope with his parents' divorce. Living in a near-building site while the new house is being refurbished, he feels unsettled and alone. Discovering a piece of rubble with the original builder's signature set into it, he starts researching the history behind his home - and in doing so finds a connection with a young soldier from the past, which leads him to an old air-raid shelter in the same woods.

Both children, previously unknown to each other, meet in the heart of the ancient city woodland as they come into the orbit of Elder, a strange homeless woman who lives amongst the trees - and, as helicopters hover overhead and newspapers fill with pictures of the two lost children, unexpected bonds are formed and lives changed forever . . .

Red Leaves Details

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Author : Sita Brahmachari

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From Reader Review Red Leaves for online ebook

Kelly says

A gently provocative story that examines the complicated relationships between self, family, culture and the wider world.

The story...

Red Leaves follows the stories of Aisha, a 13 year old Somali refugee in foster care; Zak, whose mother continues to work overseas as a war correspondent as his parents divorce; and Iona, a tough homeless girl who fends for herself on the streets with only a pet dog for company. Their paths intersect in a small corner of North London and it isn't long before these disparate characters, with apparently little in common, find their lives interwoven in ways they never expected.

[Read more:<http://dorrisheloris.wordpress.com/2...>]

Elaine says

This is such a moving book, absolutely outstanding! It concerns three unrelated teens who are all experiencing some trauma in their lives and, separately, have run away. One is a Somali girl who has been living with the same foster Mum and loves being there only now a family want to meet her with a view to adopting her Another is a slightly older girl, a talented artist, who has run from her home in the Scottish Isles, naming herself after her home island The third is a boy, the son of a famous war correspondent and a leading History professor who are about to get divorced when his Mum disappears whilst on assignment and his Dad is an ocean away Finding out about people and events from the past has a dramatic impact on the lives of these three.

Other people in the community all have their roles to play in the story – from the local shop keepers, teachers, historical families and another homeless lady, Elder, with a tragic past...and don't forget Red, the dog, who also has an important role to play in their lives! The relationships between these teenagers and other members of their community are portrayed in an empathetic manner, helping the reader understand the multi-faceted, interwoven relationships and how these develop. It is a book where you may well need tissues at the ready!

I really can't praise this book highly enough, definitely a must read for young adults and adults alike! Thank you so much to the author, publishers and NetGalley for letting me experience this superb book.

I really do hope you want to read this book after reading my review . . . well worth it!

Jaden (Potterhead Daydreams) says

4.5 Stars

Good Read. Pretty cool characters and use of themes in this book , I also very diverse. i would recommend this as a autumn read.

zubair ahmed says

Leaves you in peace and not of loving!!

esha says

Absolutely beautiful.

Wonder788 says

Absolutely loved this book. It did take a while for me to get into it but when the characters joined together I couldn't stop.

Me says

This is a really well book by Sita Brahmachari. I love the fact that three young peoples lives become entwined together where they all share their feelings about their lives. This book teaches you that if something wrong is about to happen in your life, then it might mean something better will happen afterwards. It also teaches you that a bad situation could be the start to a more better and happier situation
Amirah

Sumaiyya says

I'm really thankful for books like Red Leaves. They promote the acceptance and understanding of different cultures. They show that as humans we have the same needs and we are driven by the same emotions. All three children in this book came from different backgrounds and cultures, and all of them just needed a place they could call home, a place with the people they loved most.

I think it's a perfect book for anyone over the age of 10! I'd recommend this for early teens the most because I feel they would relate or maybe even understand the characters better.

Anna (BooksandBookends) says

I received a copy of this book from the book's publishers via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Aisha is thirteen, she left Somali during the war and hasn't seen her father since. Now in the UK she has the chance to have a brand new life, but when her foster mother has found her a Somali family willing to adopt her, her world comes crashing down. Zak's mother is a war zone journalist, his father is divorcing his mother and has moved to America. He lives in worry that one day his mother may not make it out of the war zones she reports. Iona's world came crashing down years ago, her sole companion is Red, her dog. These three children's lives are inexplicably linked to Home Wood and the slightly batty old lady who lives there. But then again, things aren't always as they seem....

It's not often that once you have finished reading a book you need to sit down and simply say "Wow." This is precisely what I did when I finished reading Red Leaves. It's not often that a book can redefine your way of thinking and provoke thought about the things we take for granted: family, community, culture, home and the people in the world around us. This is a really poignant book, one which carries a very important message.

The characters in this book are brilliant and I found myself both drawn to and sympathising with them all. Elder, Iona and Aisha were all certainly pulling at my heartstrings, Zak too at points! Elder was a fascinating character, choosing to live in the woods with her doll, Crystal. Her story was heart-wrenching to say the least.

One thing which sets this book out from the rest is the sense of community and integration. It had a brilliant allegorical nature and I think that each reader will draw their own meanings from this. Because of this I won't say what I gained from the book, I will let you derive your own, for after all that is what's special about this book and about community. We are all separate individuals, from different countries, races, ethnic origins and languages but when we stand together, we can support one another and stand strong.

Something I must say is that though this is a children's book, it is definitely one for upper KS2/KS3 and can quite similarly be enjoyed by adults. One of the best books I have had the pleasure of being given to review from NetGalley. This is certainly a book that should be on your to-read list.

Jowaher says

5/5 Stars

I love this book. It was immensely touching and...beautiful.

It spoke about three children, Aisha, Zak, and Iona, who are struggling with their difficulties in their lives and wound up together by the woods, past war, and an old lady.

Aisha is a Muslim refugee from Somalia. She was taken care of in a foster home by a carer Liliana and felt safe in her new life with the carer until news that she would be adopted crushed all the happiness within her. Zak lives in a house that's been renovated while coping with the separation of his parents and the 'unheard' of his brother while being taken care of by a Sri Lanka carer.

Iona's family has fallen apart. She had escaped from it and lived on the streets with her dog Red. Escaping from herself as well.

The book has spoken about something that everyone should be reminded of. It talks about that in this planet of ours, people have been living, and still are, within wars, crimes and had to leave their homes to move into another unknown place with people of different culture and religion. It spoke about why we don't think about

the people on the streets and ask how did they end up like what they ended up now. It spoke about how we don't think about the past and history of places, buildings, and streets. What happened in the past before we were welcomed into this world.

The book was full of life and reality of the life we're living.

I like how the characters all laughed, cried and just be human around each other despite their differences. It was such a moving part for me that it almost made me cry.

The author was brilliant with the concept of how these three children bumped into each other, slowly trusting one another and become friends. I love the idea, it was unrealistic but realistic at the same time.

The very thing that made me love this book, other than the topic of human rights, was the reminding of how we should be grateful for what we have and where we are. Some are desperate to have what we have, so we should pause think about the things that kept us going in our lives.

This was a great read for me and I highly recommend it.

Nella says

A strong sense of family and community with links to the past. Endorsed by Amnesty International. Should be widely read.

Mandy Smith says

Loved this! I was in a book slump, I've read a lot of psychological thrillers lately and I wasn't in the mood for romance but something different and this was it!

Aisha is living with her foster mum after leaving her home country and father behind due to conflict and when a family want to adopt her she doesn't want to leave her foster mum so runs away, Zak's parents are divorcing, his dad is in another country and his mum is away working, when his mum goes missing he can't take anymore and also runs away. They both end up in the woods which have been shut for conservation purposes and in them lives a mythical homeless lady who watches over them. Iona has also run away from an abusive step dad and also ends up in the woods. All of them become connected and help each other find peace. Magic, mystery, emotion, history, this story had it all and told at the most atmospheric time of year.

Sammeh says

just wow

Judith says

Yes, I did enjoy this, but felt some of the plot threads weren't as clear as they could have been, specifically Zac & the war family. Maybe I need to re-read it!

Charlene Bose says

This book was such an amazing read. It sucked me in from the very first few pages. One thing I absolutely loved about it was the diversity. It was set in UK but there were characters from everywhere, somalia, sri lanka. It's very refreshing to see that kind of diversity in a book. Also, one of the major themes I could sense from the book was belonging. These bunch of kids just wanting to find their place, and I think all of us no matter our age can still connect to that kind of feeling. The author did an amazing job of intertwining the lives of many people and connecting the three main characters to one other. These are the kind of the connections that will make you gasp and go omg. All of it was heightened with a the sense of mystery that surrounded the kids. A sort magical element to it which was perfect. :) It was a great read.
