



The Other Side of Truth

By Beverley Naidoo

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Will the truth harm them -- or save them?

When Nigeria's corrupt military government kills their mother, twelve-year-old Sade and her brother Femi think their lives are over. Out of fear for their safety, their father, an outspoken journalist, decides to smuggle the children out of Nigeria and into London, where their uncle lives. But when they get to the cold and massive city, they find themselves lost and alone, with no one to trust and no idea when -- or if -- they will ever see their father again.

The Other Side of Truth is a gripping adventure story about courage, family, and the power of truth.

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The Other Side of Truth By Beverley Naidoo Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #125372 in Books
- Brand: Harper Trophy
- Published on: 2002-12-24
- Released on: 2002-12-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x .54" w x 5.13" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 252 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Sade, the 12-year-old protagonist of Naidoo's sophisticated and emotional novel, must flee her native Nigeria with her younger brother after their mother is killed in a shooting. Their father, a muckraking journalist in trouble with the military government, was the target. Sade and 10-year-old Femi soon find themselves stranded in London, abandoned by the woman paid to smuggle them into the country, and at the mercy of mostly friendly, but foreign government agencies, foster families and teachers. Her father finally surfaces in England, only to be detained for illegally emigrating. Sade must learn quickly how to fight for what she holds dear, including her father's safety. The inclusion of real facts about African countries, such as the government's execution of Nigerian activist writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, makes Naidoo's story more poignant, while the immediacy of the parallel story, in which Sade must deal with similar obstacles on a smaller scale (e.g., powerful school gangs), makes the novel more accessible. Flashbacks, letters written between father and daughter, and Sade's constant memories of her mother's sayings, add texture. Readers may be challenged by some of the British English, but they will find it easy to understand Sade's joy at reuniting with her father in prison, and likely find her determination exhilarating. Ages 10-up.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-With political insight, sensitivity, and passion, Naidoo presents the harrowing story of two Nigerian children caught in the civil strife of their beloved homeland in the mid-1990s. Eighth-grader Sade Solaja and her fifth-grade brother, Femi, are hastily stowed out of Nigeria after their mother is shot and killed by assassins' bullets meant for their outspoken journalist father. The children are abandoned in London and are unable to locate their uncle, a university professor who has been threatened and has gone into hiding. Picked up first by the police and then by immigration authorities, the youngsters remain silent, afraid to reveal their true names and background. They are placed in a foster home where kindness does not relieve their loneliness and alienation. School is a frightening plunge into Western culture, relaxed discipline, ethnic harassment, and peer intimidation. When their father, who has illegally entered the country, contacts them from a detention center, the children are jubilant. However, their excitement is overshadowed by his imprisonment and subsequent hunger strike. Sade enacts a plan to tell "Mr. Seven O'Clock News" her father's story. Public attention and support follow, prompting his release. Tension and hope alternately drive the story as Sade and Femi grapple with an avalanche of decisions, disappointments, and discoveries. Traditions temper Sade's despair as she remembers times at Family House in Ibadan, and her mother's quiet admonition to be true to yourself. Through these compelling characters, Naidoo has captured and revealed the personal anguish and universality of the refugee experience.

Gerry Larson, *Durham School of the Arts, NC*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review r. 6-10. Like Naidoo's best-selling *Journey to Jo'burg* (1986), this story humanizes contemporary politics through the eyes of a child. On the first page Sade Solaja, 12, sees her mother shot dead outside their home in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1995. The soldiers really wanted to kill Sade's papa, an outspoken journalist. The next day Sade and her younger brother, Femi, 10, must board a plane and flee with

false papers and false names to London. The arrangements in England fall through, and the children find themselves alone on the cold streets of the huge unknown city. Eventually, the welfare office finds them a kind foster home, but always there's the chance that Papa will be assassinated before he can join them in England. Meanwhile, Sade must go to school and live with her grief and fear. Part survival adventure, part docudrama, the narrative stays true to Sade's viewpoint, whether she's remembering what she left behind, trying to care for her nearly silent brother, or coping with the bullies at her new school ("Don't need to spell in the bush," they jeer at her, though her English is better than theirs). The school cruelty is almost unbearable to read; so is the heartbreaking reunion with Papa in a London prison ("in a great arc, his arms swept up the children"). And there's no simple upbeat resolution: Papa is right ("bad men succeed when the rest of us look away"), and yet, because Papa wrote the truth, Mama is dead. Winner of the British Carnegie Medal, this powerful novel brings the news images very close by showing how anyone can become part of those winding lines of refugees. *Hazel Rochman*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kimberly Niemeyer:

This The Other Side of Truth book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This The Other Side of Truth without we know teach the one who examining it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry The Other Side of Truth can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even phone. This The Other Side of Truth having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Philip Kirkpatrick:

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