



The Rock and the River (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent)

By Kekla Magoon



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In 1968 Chicago, it's not easy for thirteen-year-old Sam to be the son of known civil rights activist Roland Childs. Especially when his older brother, Stick, starts keeping to himself. Then, one day, Sam finds something under Stick's bed that changes everything: literature about the Black Panthers. Suddenly, nothing feels certain anymore. And when Dr. King is shot and killed, Sam's father's words are no longer enough to make him believe in change....This moving, coming-of-age story gracefully encompasses the scope of the struggle between the civil rights and black power movements through an intimate and relatable lens.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up—Sam Childs, 13, is growing up in Chicago in 1968. His father is a civil rights activist, and the boy has been involved in peaceful demonstrations with his family. When he and his girlfriend, Maxie, witness the brutal beating of a friend at the hands of the police, his world begins to change dramatically. His 17-year-old brother brings a gun home and hides it in their shared room. Next thing Sam knows, Stick has run away from home and is involved with the Black Panther Party, whose philosophy his dad does not share. The brutality of the beating has wrought a change in Sam as well, and the good works he sees the Panthers doing in his neighborhood make him question his dad's opinion. The characters are well drawn and the complexities of the relationships between Roland Childs and his two sons are moving. The episodes of violence are graphic, but necessary to move the plot forward, and Magoon portrays well the tension between the Panthers and the Civil Rights Movement. An author's note provides further historical context. While the image of the Black Panther Party is somewhat idealized, this is an important book about a historical reality that has not been dealt with in juvenile fiction.—*Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In Chicago in 1968, Sam, 14, obeys his father, an eloquent civil-rights leader who is close with Dr. King and is passionately committed to nonviolent protest. But after King is assassinated and Sam witnesses police brutality toward a friend, Sam follows his rebellious older brother, Stephen ("Stick"), and joins the Black Panthers, whose revolutionary platform is the opposite of the nonviolent philosophy that Sam has been taught at home. Then Sam's father is stabbed. Will the brothers retaliate with violence? True to the young teen's viewpoint, this taut, eloquent first novel will make readers feel what it was like to be young, black, and militant 40 years ago, including the seething fury and desperation over the daily discrimination that drove the oppressed to fight back. Sam's middle-class family is loving and loyal, even when their quarrels are intense; and Magoon draws the characters without sentimentality. Along with the family drama, the politics will grab readers, especially the Panthers' political education classes and their call for "land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace." A long author's note fills in background in this important title for YA American history classes. Grades 6-10. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"An intensely significant story..." -- Sundee T. Frazier, winner of the ALA 2008 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award

"This is an essential story that has been waiting for its time and its teller. A brave and brilliant accomplishment." -- Helen Frost, Printz Honor Award-winning author of "Spinning Through the Universe"

"Vividly, poignantly, and without compromise, Kekla Magoon takes us to the heart of a world in the messy business of monumental change. "The Rock and the River" is an extraordinary book that brings unflinchingly to life an extraordinary moment in time." -- Tim Wynne-Jones, author of "Rex Zero and the End of the World"

"This explosive coming-of-age story, taut with tension and protest, propelled me along like the river of its title. Magoon is most certainly a new and serious talent to watch. An intensely significant story of emotional

and historical depth that resonates with relevancy for our age." -- Sundee T. Frazier, winner of the ALA 2008 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award for "Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It"

"What a rich and passionate debut novel! With both intensity and humor, the story that unfolds is at once riveting, disquieting, and ultimately most satisfying." -- Ellen Levine, Caldecott Honor Award-winning author of "Henry's Freedom Box"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Murphy:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a e-book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you this The Rock and the River (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent) book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Larry Chaffin:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love The Rock and the River (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent), you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

James Johnson:

Beside this kind of The Rock and the River (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent) in your phone, it can give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or facts. The information and the knowledge you may got here is fresh through the oven so don't end up being worry if you feel like an old people live in narrow commune. It is good thing to have The Rock and the River (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent) because this book offers to you personally readable information. Do you often have book but you seldom get what it's all about. Oh come on, that will not happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, just like treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss that? Find this book and also read it from currently!

Corey Mason:

Is it you actually who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by watching television programs or

just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Rock and the River (Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent) can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

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