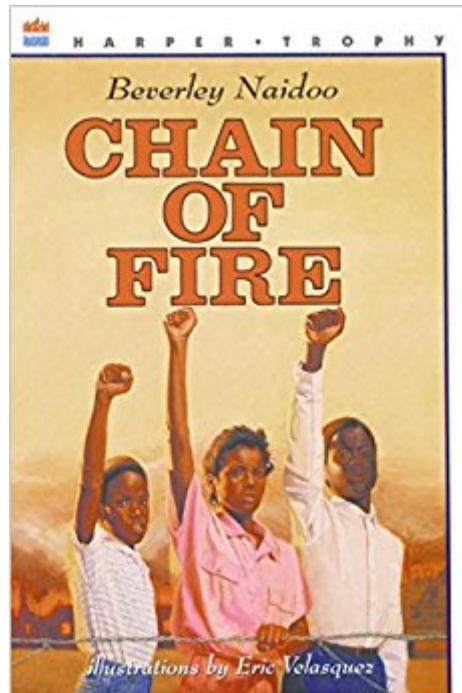




The book was found

Chain Of Fire



Synopsis

The South African government is forcing Naledi and the other villagers to move to a new location: a "homeland" of iron huts and barren soil. And it seems that no one is willing to resist. No one, that is, except Naledi's friend Taolo, whose family has often spoken out against apartheid. Taolo gives Naledi the strength to fight, and with his help, she and her schoolmates organize an anti-removal march through the village. But the right of free expression is not a liberty granted to the young protesters, and the police instigate a reign of terror on the villagers. Naledi and Taolo's chain of fiery resistance cannot be broken, though. With each new crisis, it grows ever stronger and burns ever brighter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The inhabitants of a black South African town resist the white government's plan for their relocation; PW said, "this gripping novel . . . blazes with rage. It tackles tough issues head-on and presents them with superb dramatic tension." Ages 11-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-8-- Naledi and Tiro, the children in Naidoo's *Journey to Jo'Burg* (Harper, 1986), return in a longer tale that stands on its own but is enhanced by the reading of its predecessor. The story begins with the sudden announcement that the people of Naledi's village are to be removed to "the homeland" in four weeks' time. With every reason to believe few will survive the removal, the villagers choose to resist, their determination fired by the righteous indignation of their young. Naledi, her friend Taolo, and three others are elected student representatives in the resistance, and together they organize a peaceful student march as a demonstration of unity and strength. But the

police anticipate their plan, and the march ends in violence. Events accelerate. Homes are bulldozed, families are separated, and Taolo's father is murdered. The removal is accomplished and, for the moment, it seems the white government has won. But Naledi and her neighbors are no longer the same villagers who once clung passively to subsistence. They are becoming a unified people, with a recognizable enemy and no end of heroes alive and dead around whom to rally--and the beginnings of a political mechanism through which to do so. As Naledi and the others have matured, politically, since the first book, so Naidoo has matured markedly as a writer. She demonstrates an insight into her characters and their condition--particularly the role of the young in initiating and sustaining rebellion that was far less evident in *Journey*. . . *Chain of Fire* flows effortlessly, with power and grace, as it succeeds in making a foreign culture immediate and real. Truly it is the grimmer tale, but one that, in light of its own truth as well as of recent events, readers might look at with a trace more hope. --Marcia Hupp, Mamaroneck Public Library, NY

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I first discovered the work of Beverly Naidoo while I was traveling in South Africa and was pleased to find her books increasingly available here. She writes starkly and appropriately for the adolescent about the days of South Africa Apartheid. *CHAIN OF FIRE* deals with the displacement of people in Cape Town when developers wanted the desirable land for "better" uses than it was being used for poorer people's homes. I have had some email conversations with Ms. Naidoo and have her profiled in my co-authored Children's Literature text *LIVING LITERATURE* (Kasten, Kristo, & McClure, 2005, Prentice-Hall) so I can add a personal note that Ms. Naidoo is a White South African married to a Black South African and because of that, she was exiled from her home country during the Apartheid years (inter-marriage was illegal). She maintains a home in the U.K. but continues to visit South Africa often and continues to tell its stories of struggle and change brilliantly. Wendy C. Kasten, Ph.D.

This engaging companion to *Journey to Jo'burg* tells a passionate story of resistance. Naledi, the teenage girl in Jo'burg, and her brother, Tiro, join with the rest of their village to fight against South Africa's apartheid government that has marked their village to be destroyed and the occupants moved to a barren and nearly unlivable plot of land farther away. The fire within Naledi begins as a smoldering log. As she faces one injustice after another, the fire burns brighter and stronger. Her friendship with Taolo, the son of an active union leader from Soweto, pushes Naledi into a leadership position. She must accept the responsibility and the consequences of resistance. Naidoo

includes a diversity of personalities involved in resistance. Naledi's grandmother's hesitancy turns to quiet understanding while a few villagers choose to side with the apartheid government for the perks. Death, beatings, kidnappings and destroyed homes are some of the many consequences the black South Africans find in their struggle. Throughout the story you are shown the strength of community rising up against injustice. Naidoo has provided strong and proud teenage characters who are not afraid to stand up against injustice. Naledi, Taolo and Tiro are inspirations for all of us.

"1427" a number painted on the front door of Naledi's house. She steps out of her house to find out that every door in their village has been painted with a number. She finds out that her village is to be moved to new location. She and a few other residents decide to threaten the men painting their doors by telling them that they would take this up with the chief, but they soon realize that their own chief was offered a large sum of money and he had decided to move the village. Naledi's family which is about to be moved to a dry barren part of Africa decides to stand up to the Europeans. Taolo, one of Naledi's closest friends and a few other friends from her school decide to revolt and start a plan a way that they can stay in the village they are currently living in, but with a corrupt chief and the mighty power of the Europeans will Naledi have a chance? This book will captivate the reader and will fill the reader with more curiosity after every page. This book is recommended to anyone who wants an adventure over power and struggle.

Chain of Fire Have you ever had a incident where someone treated you badly because the color of your skin or you did things differently than others? That's what happens in this story. It is all prejudice and discrimination. A black tribe is forced to move because they need more room for the white people. The blacks try to stand up for themselves but in the process many get hurt. Will they have to move or will they all possibly stand up for themselves and die? You'll only find out if you read Chain of Fire. If you want my opinion I think that this is a great book because this really could of happen. What I am really trying to say is that the subject of the book could have really happened because it was about blacks and in this time blacks weren't treated fair. This book has to do with prejudice and discrimination. Back in the early 1900's blacks weren't slaves in all parts of the world only in some places but they still weren't treated fair. If you were to rate this book from 1-10 on a rating scale I would give it a 10.

Determination and resistance is the only thing that Naledi and the villagers, from the Chain of fire have left after the European's took everything else away from them. Chain of fire by Beverly Naidoo

will captivate readers as they see how the South African's struggled and fought for freedom. The South Africans are willing to do anything that will help them have a say in their own land even if it means going behind the European's backs. The Europeans with all their force, power, and control only have to tell the South African's what to do and if they disobey, then they will have to face the serious consequences. This book deserves 4 stars as it is truly amazing with all the detail that Beverly Naidoo has put in. The book makes the reader realize how tough life was for the South African's in their own land. With every new crisis that occurs the chain of the community becomes stronger, longer, and brighter.

This is a good book. This book is good for childrens all age. The book talks about these kids Naledi and Taolo trying to save their land from the European. Naledi and Taolo found numbers on house that ment everything to the whole town. The town had a metting that chief Skete had set up. Chief skete had to brake the news to them to tell them that they have to go home because the government is kicking them out of the land but Mma Tashedi said this is our land we have nowhere else to go and i don't want to leave. Naledi knows somethings wrong and shes going to do what ever she has to save her land .Naledi and the town marched to the town to fight against them. As the go on they get stronger and wiser. Naledi find out that her friend Taolo is gone. I wonder what she is going to do. This book is good for childre because it teaches them to always fight for what they love.

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