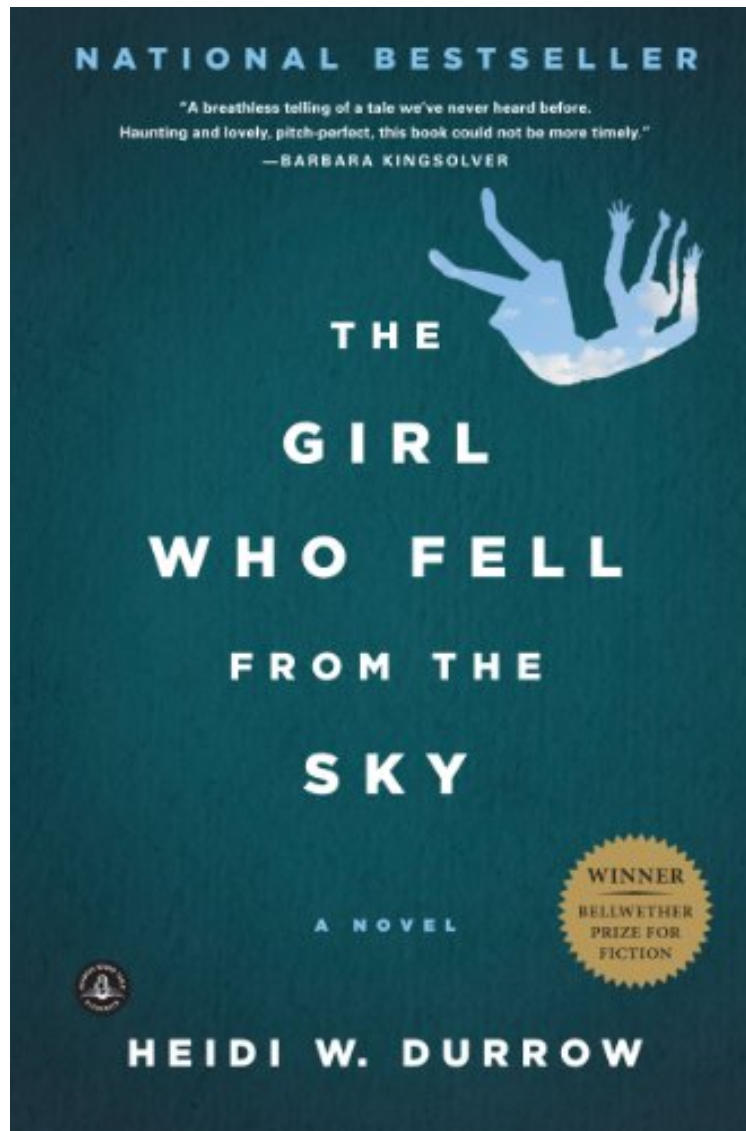


[Ebook pdf] The Girl Who Fell from the Sky (English Edition)

The Girl Who Fell from the Sky (English Edition)

Von Heidi W. Durrow

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Von Heidi W. Durrow : The Girl Who Fell from the Sky (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Girl Who Fell from the Sky (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Bigotry Comes in All ColorsVon BeatleBangs1964Rachel, 11 is biracial. Her mother is Danish and her father is black. Rachel spent her early childhood in Germany and did not give her rich racial heritage much thought. She is brown in coloring and her eyes are blue. When Rachel and her family are struck by tragedy after moving to the United States, Rachel is

sent to live with her paternal grandmother in Portland, Oregon. The neighborhood in which Rachel's grandmother lives is predominantly black. Once in Portland, Rachel is literally hung up between two sticks. She is the target of insider bigotry. Other black kids pull her hair and accuse her of having delusions of Caucasian superiority because she does not fit a racial mold. The age old racist claim of "thinking one is white" simply because they don't use bad grammar and street argot or act like an unflattering stereotype is one that irks me to no end. It is one thing to adjust one's speech accordingly, but NEVER dumb down for anyone. Using good grammar and demonstrating a good vocabulary is one good way to command respect. While I'm at it, good grammar and a large vocabulary is not exclusive to ANY race. There is NO legitimate reason to deed over one's right to speaking the Lingua Pura to others lest they be ostracized or targeted for attack for not using street argot. I have always believed that bad grammar and street talk is a DEPLETION of language and a form of shackling oneself to stereotypes and carry overs to a bad time in history when knowledge and learning were denied to blacks. I feel very strongly about this and I will admit that I never liked street talk and feel that it does not speak to class. Trying to enforce other members of a particular group to speak and act in stereotypical ways is the modern day equivalent of slavery. Willfully choosing ignorance reflects badly on whoever makes this choice and sadly reinforces negative racial stereotypes. I don't feel these insider racist claims and demonstrations of insider bigotry is helpful to anyone. Again, since I do feel passionate about this, I believe that shackling oneself to an atrocious bygone era and upholding ignorance does nobody any favors. Rachel naturally feels like an outsider among her family and peers. Because she is clearly biracial, she defies all stereotypes. During Rachel's early years in Germany, she was simply accepted and gave no thought to the fact that she was the daughter of an interracial couple. Most people, including those who are "identifiably" black are a mix of other races as well. Race is a congenital condition. Race has nothing to do with how one talks, dresses, speaks or what cultural influences they enjoy. Sadly, people often want to label others and that confines people into places where they just don't fit. That is ENFORCING beliefs on others and trying to categorize them in simplistic terms when people are NOT simplistic; they are complex! Durrow, who shares an Afro-Danish history with her character, Rachel has written a brilliant story. (Model Melyssa Ford also shares an Afro-Scandinavian ancestry.) Black, white, how about both? Most people are! Most people are the products of MORE than one race! Family secrets and family dynamics as well as the place for race are discussed candidly and realistically. Rachel is branded as "light skinned-ed" which is bad enough, but to add insult to injury her peers ride her for "talking white." Since when is it white to use good grammar and eschew street argot? That claim has always struck me as asinine to the nth degree. Rachel herself has some similar feelings as she cringes at her grandmother's "dialectical" speech. Readers learn about Rachel's parents and their social attitudes. Although part of this story takes place in the 1980s, it remains relevant and the socioracial issues resound to this day. I could identify with Rachel. Being branded a race is bad enough, but when it is prefaced with "light skinned," it adds insult to injury. The tacit message is that people often feel a need to define members of the black race by their skin tone. Non-blacks who use this term raise the question of if they feel that members of the black race who are less ethnic and/or lighter in appearance are more acceptable overall. I have never liked the term "light skinned" because I never saw the need to define or identify a person by their skin tone. Archie Bunker comes in all colors. Bigotry, ironically enough, is an equal opportunity form of ignorance. Bigotry is not limited to any one group and the targets are also not limited to just one group. Hair is a very trenchant issue among many blacks and Rachel learns this the hard way. Other girls pull her long hair and make catty comments about her appearance. There is also a classist assumption about hair texture: the less ethnic one's hair is, the "better off" that person is viewed. (Just watch Chris Rock's 2009 movie Good Hair.) There is also the very real issue of internecine bigotry. Often blacks who are less ethnic in appearance are targeted by other blacks who try to pigeonhole them and charge them with having delusions of superiority. That is downright asinine! It's all bigotry, any way you toss the dice. How can anybody claim to know what another thinks? And for a group with a history of being targeted based on the color of their skin and general appearance, it is damned ironic and very upsetting that there is a faction who practice this kind of insider racism replete with ridiculous racist ideas. This is a very good book that is serious, topical and in your face. Yeah, it will evoke strong reactions in readers. That is because it covers issues that many feel strongly about, more often than not for having lived through some of these race based targeting methods. It is something that many people can relate to, particularly if they lived with insider bigotry. Rachel herself grows and her view of the world naturally changes with time and maturation. Again, this is a book that is a much needed work as these are issues that sadly still exist. Michael Jackson's 1991 hit "Black or White" is definitely the soundtrack of this book.

Kurzbeschreibung Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., becomes the sole survivor of a family tragedy after a fateful morning on their Chicago rooftop. Forced to move to a new city, with her strict African American grandmother as her guardian, Rachel is thrust for the first time into a mostly black community, where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring a constant stream of attention her way. Its there, as she grows up and tries to swallow her grief, that she comes to understand how the mystery and tragedy of her mother might be

connected to her own uncertain identity. This searing and heartwrenching portrait of a young biracial girl dealing with society's ideas of race and class is the winner of the Bellwether Prize for best fiction manuscript addressing issues of social justice.