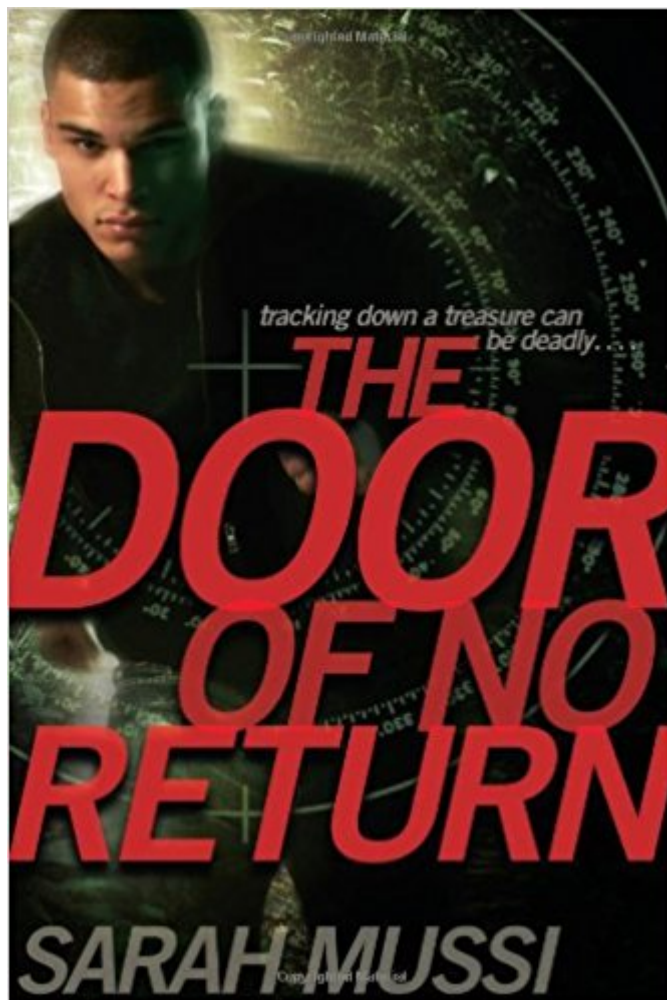




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The Door Of No Return



Synopsis

Zac Baxter's grandfather has always told him that he's the descendant of African kings, whose treasure was stolen when his ancestors were sold into slavery. Of course, Zac brushes this off as a tall tale -- until his grandfather is murdered and their apartment is completely ransacked. Clearly somebody is after something. Heeding his grandfather's dying words, Zac is off to Ghana to track down his family's history. But what did his grandfather mean when he said that Zac had the map to the treasure? Following every clue he can find, Zac begins to suspect that the treasure is real, and hidden in one of Ghana's old slave forts. Too bad the killers always seem to be one step ahead of him. With no one he can trust and with everything to lose, Zac races against time as he tries to uncover the truth about the past -- and a fortune in gold.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710L (What's this?)

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books; Reprint edition (November 10, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416968253

ISBN-13: 978-1416968252

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,072,296 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 8 Up
Lost gold treasure, African royal ancestors, and betrayal are the foundation of family legends that Zac Baxter has been told repeatedly by his beloved grandfather. Zac loves the man but is skeptical about his stories until Sam Baxter's brutal murder convinces him otherwise. He promises himself to finish what his grandfather started no matter what the outcome. Zac is depicted as a regular British teen of African descent. He is likable, resourceful, and often terrified as his life is threatened at every turn. The British government clearly wants him

out of the way. The characters he meets on his quest, both friends and villains, are unique and fully developed. This exciting narrative takes place in England and Africa; in jungles, dark caves, and on the sea. The Gold Coast slave trade comes alive with Zac's every historical discovery, while the parallel story told of the harrowing experiences of his ancestors puts a personal touch on the inhumanity of slavery. Zac begins his journey wanting vindication for his grandfather and personal gain for himself. However, he ends it with respect and pride in his heritage, confidence in his abilities, and finally with a sense that his grandfather would be proud and at peace with his accomplishments. Overall, this is a complex, masterful story for confident readers. --Margaret Auguste, Franklin Middle School, Somerset, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

'... one of the most thought-provoking and complete debut novels published recently ... It's got just about everything between its covers, from hair-raising excitement and characters that are so memorable they'll stay with you forever, to breath-taking vistas of Africa as well as almost every emotion you can think of. You'll be gripped by it, moved by it and once you've read it you'll want everyone else to read it too because it's different and original.' LoveReading '... powerful and extremely well-plotted modern adventure novel rooted in the terrible actuality and legacy of the African slave trade ... Sarah Mussi bravely engages with the most serious issues - friendship, trust, betrayal, greed, degradation, survival, the presence of the past. ... Sarah Mussi's narrator, a 16-year-old hoodie, Zac, is wholly disarming and her writing is consistently robust, vivid and tensile.' Kevin Crossley, Judge of the Glen Dimplex New Writers Award ... consistently engaging ... This is a really excellent and original thriller. ... its premise and Zac's wry, streetwise voice make it fresh, funny and compelling. Amanda Craig, The Times '... original, page-turning ... filled with action, adventure, emotions, a well crafted plot and a delicately handled theme regarding the roles of Britain and Ghana during the slaving era. ... a contemporary adventure story' Writeaway.org 'a rollicking good mystery story' TES '... an intelligent and well-plotted blend of Treasure Island, King Solomon's Mines and Roots ... Suspense and important history in one fine novel.' Kirkus 'a complex, masterful story' School Library Journal 'exciting mystery' Kliatt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great read, fast paced with lots of action and a sympathetic, slightly goofy hero. What sets it apart from being just another adventure story though, is the brave tackling of the issue of the slave trade from West Africa. The book can be read on several levels, just simply as a rollicking story, or

more seriously considering the big issue embedded within it. Its a book for teenage boys who will love the chase scenes and mysterious shadowy would-be-assassins. But it is also a book for class study with teenagers, with lots of teaching potential on a diversity of issues, such as loss of family, race, personal struggle etc as well as the big thorny one of slavery. Teenagers looking for a zippy read or teachers looking for a great book to work with in class, would be well advised to dip into this! The kids at our school really loved it!

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