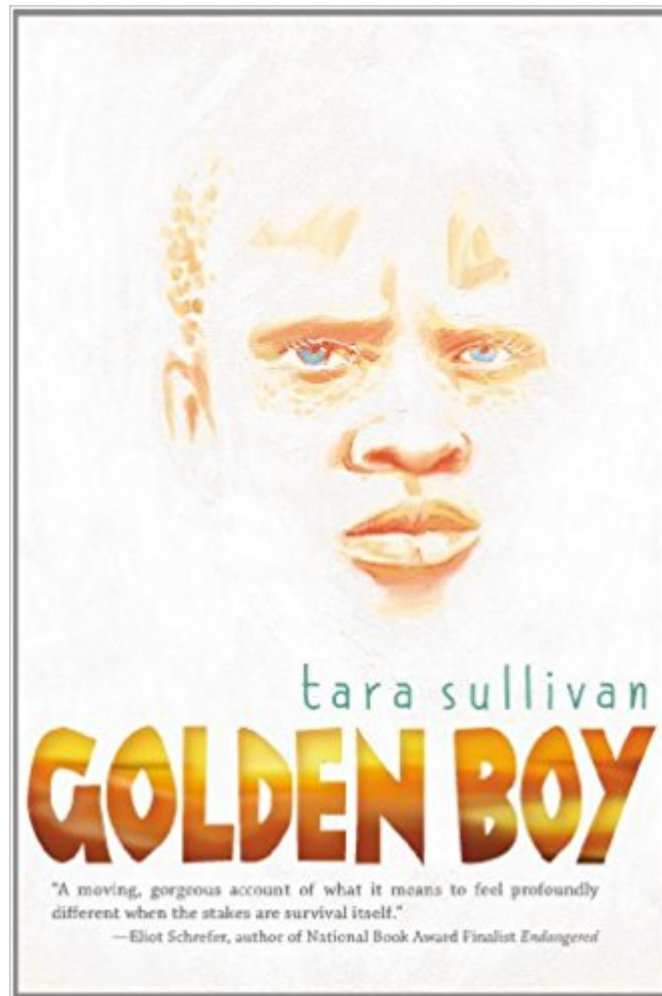




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# Golden Boy



## Synopsis

“Harrowing but ultimately redemptive” the murder of Tanzania’s albinos is a real and horrific phenomenon of the past 15 years, a cold fact that makes the fictional events in Golden Boy more moving and consequential than those in any dystopian young-adult chase-drama. “The Wall Street Journal” “A riveting snapshot of one Tanzanian boy who makes himself matter.” Kirkus Reviews, starred review “Readers will be haunted by Habo’s voice as he seeks a place of dignity and respect in society. An important and affecting story.” School Library Journal, starred review Thirteen-year-old Habo has always been different light eyes, yellow hair and white skin. Not the good brown skin his family has and not the white skin of tourists. Habo is strange and alone. His father, unable to accept Habo, abandons the family; his mother can scarcely look at him. His brothers are cruel and the other children never invite him to play. Only his sister Asu loves him well. But even Asu can’t take the sting away when the family is forced from their small Tanzanian village, and Habo knows he is to blame. Seeking refuge in Mwanza, Habo and his family journey across the Serengeti. His aunt is glad to open her home until she sees Habo for the first time, and then she is only afraid. Suddenly, Habo has a new word for himself: Albino. But they hunt Albinos in Mwanza because Albino body parts are thought to bring good luck. And soon Habo is being hunted by a fearsome man with a machete. To survive, Habo must not only run, but find a way to love and accept himself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born albino in a Tanzanian village, Habo suffers virulent prejudice for his pale skin, blue eyes, and yellow hair, even from his own family. At 13, he runs away to the city of Dar-es-Salaam, where he thinks he will find more acceptance: there are even two albino members of the government there. He finds a home as an apprentice to a blind sculptor who knows Habo is a smart boy with a good heart, and he teaches Habo to carve wood. But Habo is being pursued by a poacher who wants to kill him and sell his body parts on the black market to superstitious buyers in search of luck. Readers will be caught by the contemporary story of prejudice, both unspoken and violent, as tension builds to the climax. Just as moving is the bond the boy forges with his mentor, and the gripping daily events: Habo gets glasses for his weak eyes, discovers the library, and goes to school at last. The appended matter includes a Swahili glossary and suggestions for documentary videos. Grades 8-12. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Readers will be caught by the contemporary story of prejudice, both unspoken and violent, as tension builds to the climax." **• Booklist** "A moving novel that explores finding the worth of an individual as they see themselves, not as the world sees them." **• VOYA** **• Kirkus Reviews**, starred review **• School Library Journal**, starred review "Harrowing but ultimately redemptive | the murder of Tanzania's albinos is a real and horrific phenomenon of the past 15 years, a cold fact that makes the fictional events in **Golden Boy** more moving and consequential than those in any dystopian young-adult chase-drama." **• The Wall Street Journal** "Golden Boy is an amazing story of prejudice, bravery and acceptance. From the very first page, I was captivated by Habo and his struggle to find his place in the world." **• Kristin Levine**, critically acclaimed author of *The Lions of Little Rock* "A commandingly written debut, *Golden Boy* is a moving, gorgeous account of what it means to feel profoundly different when the stakes are survival itself." **• Eliot Schrefer**, author of National Book Award Finalist *Endangered* "Through the course of the story Habo grows from a dependent character to one who is strong enough to defend himself and others against injustice. Well-written and researched..." **• LMC** From the Hardcover edition.

I am the mother of two children with albinism and I co-founded an organization to help people with albinism in Tanzania. So, it's fair to say that I am biased about this issue. I picked up this book with trepidation because harmful myths about albinism are often perpetuated by popular media. I needn't have worried - Tara Sullivan's book treats a difficult topic with restraint and grace. *Golden Boy* sheds light on the myths that surround albinos in Tanzania, and the danger they live with every day without resorting to sensationalizing the issue. The author draws a perceptive portrait of a young boy with albinism named Habo who struggles against poverty, prejudice and murderous intent to find his place in the world. This book could bring a new awareness to the plight of people with albinism in Tanzania. This is important because albinos in Tanzania aren't just shunned and discriminated against - they are hunted for their body parts to fuel a black market. Witch doctors promote the myth that the hair, skin and limbs of people with albinism can be made into potions that bring wealth or luck. As a result, over one hundred people with albinism have been murdered or mutilated in the last five years. Asante Mariamu Foundation works to raise awareness about this issue, and help people with albinism like Habo in Tanzania. The story is compelling because of the subject matter, but it is memorable because of Habo. Like a lot of teens, he is a study in contrasts: proud, confused, afraid, brave, stubborn and perseverant - and it is gratifying to watch him take the journey into adulthood. People with albinism in Tanzania deserve the same chance to seek peace and fulfillment, and this book might be a step in that direction by raising awareness.

Tara Sullivan has produced a tour de force--a compelling, heart-breaking story set in Tanzania (a country I've visited twice and love). Most of us have probably learned about the shocking slaughter of Tanzanian albinos whose body parts are sold as powerful fetishes, but, if not, the reader will be on the same page as young protagonist Habo. His relocation from the relative security of his birthplace leads to a series of fearsome trials, not least of which is the nation's privileging of poached elephants (though we surely grieve for them too) over poached humans. Ostensibly a kids' novel, adults will love this too. A beautiful story brilliantly evoked.

This story is an excellent example of a real page-turner! My students and I immediately connected to the main character and felt the same tension he did as he made his way through the world. I read this to a class of fifth graders and they begged me every day to keep reading (and begged me not to stop!). As a teacher, you can't ask for a better response than that! In addition to the story being engaging and exciting, the content is important as it deals with the real-world struggle faced by

people affected with albinism. This combination was a winner for my students and me! Read this book! :)

Golden Boy not only shines the spotlight on the atrocities people with albinism face in Tanzania, it is also the story of a thirteen year old boy's journey to self discovery and self acceptance. A must read for anyone (like myself) with albinism, their friends, family, and anyone who truly cares about how others are treated in other parts of the world.

Ms. Sullivan is my son's favorite teacher, and has always been so kind to him. I initially purchased this book to support her, and I am very glad I did. It is well-written, exciting and unique--one of those rare books that has you thinking about the characters as you go through your day. In addition to being a wonderful story, it educates and inspires readers to "be that one person." Thanks, Ms. Sullivan!

In Eastern Africa, there is a situation occurring that people everywhere should be aware of: the discrimination against albinos. This recent book tells the story of a young albino teenager and what he goes through just to stay alive. It is very well written and the details about Tanzania are accurate - I traveled there in 2012. This is a situation that cries out for help, and you can learn how by reading this book.

Heart-wrenching, excellent writing style, fascinating insight into relatively unknown country and culture. not only for children and young adults. I had no idea this was going on in our world, and am delighted someone took time to write about it so eloquently. this book will make a difference!

fabulous price for a hard cover. My son needed this for school because English teacher didn't have enough copies for all of middle school. I would order from this seller again, very pleased

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