

Title: *Sugar Town Queens*

Author: Malla Nunn

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Julia Z., 7th Grade

Date Reviewed : April 14, 2022

Sugar Town Queens, by Malla Nunn, is about a fifteen year old girl named Amandla, who lives in a township, Sugar Town, in Southern Africa. Amandla lives with her mother Annalisa. Annalisa is a white woman in a town of dark-skinned people, with a mixed race daughter. She was raised wealthy, but now lives in a slum. Her family is extremely rich, but her father kicked her out fifteen years ago. She tries to keep this a secret, and succeeds, for fifteen years. However, one day, when she returns from the city, which she goes to every few months, she gets off the bus stumbling, and in a daze. Amandla gets Annalisa back home, and discovers a stack of cash and a piece of paper with an address and a date in Annalisa's bag. She and her best friend, Lil Bit, become friends with Goodness, a member of the rich Dumisa family. Goodness helps them figure out what the address on the piece of paper is. It turns out to be the address for a hospital. The next day, Amandla stalks Annalisa to the hospital. Unexpectedly, she meets her grandmother, Amanda Bollard, the person the hospital was named for. Annalisa discovers it and tells her daughter to beware her grandfather, Neville, and to stay away from her grandmother, since it was too dangerous. Amandla however, has no intention of doing such a thing, and continues sneaking back. One day, she meets her grandfather and her uncle, who tell her to stay away if she knew what was good for her grandmother. She refuses, and goes back. Amanda Bollard gives Amandla a file with the story of what happened to Annalisa in it, but warns her not to read it yet. Then, back in Sugar Town, Annalisa gets stabbed, near the heart. This provokes Father Gibson, who is the family priest, a doctor, and Amanda Bollard to come visit. When they get there, Amanda and her grandmother read the report on Annalisa together. Afterwards, they visit Neville's office with Amandla's friends to stop him from causing anymore harm. They succeed, and Neville is excluded from the family company. However, in the end, Amanda Bollard dies. This is the summary of Sugar Town Queens.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot kept me interested. Some places were more interesting than others, but they were all sufficient.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was just right. It was just fast enough to keep you interested, but slow enough so you don't know everything without reading the entire book.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book would be appropriate for grade levels 7-9.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy reading about life in different places, and events that could happen.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Other information I believe would be helpful would be that there is racism included, so if racism makes anyone uncomfortable, they should not read it.

4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.

This book was interesting, but also at times suspenseful. One of these times was when Annalisa got stabbed near the heart. These moments of suspense made the book more enjoyable. It is also fascinating to listen to the different perspectives different people see the world through, and what they think about everything.