

Book Title: Across the BARRICADES

Author: Joan Lingard

Publisher: Heinemann New Windmills

Synopsis / Summary:

The fear and suspicion between Catholics and Protestants was deep and violent. Sadie and Kevin, from opposing sides, fell in love with each other. Their parents didn't support their relationship so they told lies to their parents and met secretly. Luckily, Sadie's teacher Mr. Blake was really kind and gentle. Although he was a protestant, he helped Sadie and Kevin. In the end, Mr. Blake died because a killer threw a bomb into his house. Kevin felt guilty and decided to leave Belfast. Sadie followed him and they started their new life together in London.

Personal Reflection:

This story is a bit similar to 'Romeo and Juliet', teenagers from two opposing sides fall in love. It is a romantic love story.

I appreciate Kevin because he is cool. He does what he wants to do. He thinks fights and hostilities, which harm the society's harmony, are silly. He is thoughtful too. He decides to go to London to escape from violent Belfast. Moreover, I think Mr. Blake is a good person. He is willing to help Kevin and Sadie. He has given many chances to the couple to meet at his house. If I were him, I would not do this since it was really dangerous. Maybe there would be someone from the other side coming and killing me. However, Mr. Blake is not afraid of death. He keeps on helping the couple.

In the story, Catholics and Protestants always fight with each other. They are stubborn and feel frightened of changes. They do not want to know more about the other side. They just keep on hating the others. I think people should be more open-minded. They should accept other people's opinion. Kevin and Sadie are good examples. They accept each other's religion and belief.

I think this story is suitable for us to read. The story is exciting, especially the ending. The two main characters can escape from violence and have a happy life ever after. I love this book very much. I would like to recommend this book to my friends.