Synopsis for

Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java

2-line Summary:

Black Sun. Red Moon: A Novel of Java. In the uneasy aftermath of war, once-bitter foes must join as allies against the rage of a revolution.

Short Synopsis:

Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java. Rory Marron — World War ends in 1945 but revolution erupts in Indonesia. In a twist of fate, British and Japanese become uneasy allies against mob terror. Yet even as new bonds of comradeship form, older traditions of honour demand a deadly finale.

Medium Synopsis:

Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java. Rory Marron — A World War ends in August 1945 but revolution erupts in Indonesia. In a twist of fate, British and Japanese troops, recent bitter foes, become uneasy allies in the fight to save European women and children from mob terror and slaughter. Place medium synopsis text here.

Long Synopsis:

Japan's sudden surrender ends the Second World War but triggers the Indonesian declaration of independence from the Netherlands, catching the returning Dutch and 'Southeast Asia's peacekeepers', Britain, by surprise. In a chaotic, mistrustful peace the Japanese are ordered to defend the white colonial order. Recent foes have no choice but to become allies…of a kind. In greatest peril are 80,000 European women and children interned by the Japanese for three years. These defenceless civilians, abandoned and half-starved, some of them former sex slaves, become hostages to the future of a free Indonesia. As their former gaolers become their guardians, protecting them from hostile mobs, deep hatreds and prejudices are hastily re-examined. British, Gurkha and Indian troops, veterans of the long Burma campaign arrive in Java expecting a warm welcome from grateful civilians and easy duties. Very soon their orders are rewritten, their mission and motives questioned, as they face determined, frequently suicidal opposition. In the mayhem of siege and slaughter, once sworn enemies stand shoulder to shoulder against a murderous human tide. Yet when loyalties are questioned fragile, new bonds are threatened and Japanese must face Japanese in a private, deadly, finale.

Five characters amidst a maelstrom:

Kate van Dam is struggling to survive the squalor and deprivation of an internment camp. Faced with a sick mother, little food and medicines she accepts a dubious offer of work at a Japanese officers' club….

Lamban longs for independence for Indonesia. A chance encounter with an activist plunges him into a teeming, dangerous world of secret societies, plots and the whirlwind of revolution….

For Kenichi Ota, Japan's surrender saves him from a suicidal last stand. But to save the woman he loves he will have to fight once more….

Private Alun MacDonald has had his fill of the British Army but finds himself facing a new, unpredictable foe and having to trust his former enemies with his life….

War Correspondent Meg Graham is expecting to cover Japan's defeat. Instead she is pitched into a ruthless struggle for an empire unrestrained by rules of war.

5 Points of Interest about the Story:

1. Based on a true story and actual events.

2. Within six weeks of their surrender, Japanese troops were fighting alongside the British in Java.

3. British 'evasion' of the Geneva Convention in using Japanese troops remains controversial.

4. The debacle at Surabaya was Britain's first post-war military defeat. (Over 400 dead in three days.)

5. An official Dutch report found 85 Dutch women were willingly co-habiting with Japanese by 1945

Book Details and Purchase Information

Book Title: Black Sun, Red Moon: A Novel of Java
Author: Rory Marron
Published by: Seventh Citadel

Available from: Amazon, The Book Depository, Barnes and Noble, Waterstones and most bookstores. Retail Price for Print: UK£7.99/US$12.99
Retail Price for eBook: UK£2.99/US$3.99

Softcover Print (ISBN): 978-0-9576305-2-9
eBook Kindle (ISBN): 978-0-9576305-0-5

Book Website: www.blacksunredmoon.com (redirects to Author site)
Publisher Website: www.seventhcitadel.com

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