Chanda’s Wars, By: Allan Stratton

Caysi Simpson’s Continental Book Report.

I read Chanda’s Wars, by Allen Stratton. This book is about a seventeen year old girl named Chanda, whose mother died 6 months ago from Aids. She has to take care of her younger sister and brother, Isis and Soly, on her own, along with the help of her neighbor and a friend. One day she decides to go to Tiro to fix a broken bond with her family there. So she and her siblings pack up whatever small belongings they have and they take a bus to Tiro. Once there Chanda does her best to try and fix the hole in their family’s relationship. It’s hard for Chanda since they shunned her mother and left her to die those six months ago. Besides her family, Chanda meets a neighbor boy named Nelson. After a couple weeks there, Chanda gets told that Nelson wants to marry her. Chanda says no, and once again shames her family like her mama did long ago. Everything falls apart from there, her own brother and sister don’t want to be seen talking to her! That’s when the rebels attack, lead by their leader Mandiki, and that’s when Mandiki kidnaps Soly and Iris! Nelson accompanies her to find his little brother Pako. Together they begin the journey to save their siblings.

I enjoyed this book a lot because it told about the strong bond of family, like how Chanda wouldn’t give up on finding her brother and sister no matter what. I also liked it because it made me aware of the serious and terrible conditions in Africa. I just find it so awful how rebels could destroy families without a second thought. And I hated how they tortured innocent people for no particular reason. What if that was them burning alive or being beaten to death? In my opinion, I don’t think that they would like it. This story isn’t real, but it is based off of the actual events in Africa. There really were rebels and slaughtering. I also liked the fact that this book made me ask myself questions like, “Would I have the courage to go after a loved one if it meant risking my life to save them?” My answer would be yes, but I still liked how throughout the book I was asking myself questions like that. Lastly, I did enjoy the few romantic parts there were in the book, because I love romantic parts in books. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoyed reading, A Long Way Gone, because both books are about the same event. The only thing about Chanda’s Wars is that there is a little romance and it isn’t as graphic and detailed as A Long Way Gone was. So if you don’t like any romance what-so-ever, then don’t read this. And if you liked how graphic A Long Way Gone was, I don’t recommend you read this book because Chanda’s Wars isn’t that graphic. But if you do like reading a little romance and you didn’t like the detail in A Long Way Gone (but you liked the book), then I definitely recommend this book to you.