

Book Report: Warriors Don't Cry

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Imagine being the only Black kid in an all-white school during the racism era. This was the situation of a small girl from the town of Little Rock, Arkansas. Melba Pattillo Beals, one of the key figures in the Civil Rights Era was a brave girl who made immense sacrifices so that today, the black children can get equal education as everybody else. This book is her time in Central High, one of the most prestigious schools in the United States at that time and how she was verbally and physically abused in the all-white school.

On page 28 in the book, she has a glimmer of hope. The people of her kind had started to stretch out their arms to knock down the gates of desegregation which made her eventually sign up for Central High after NAACP officials tried to register some black students in the Central. On page 32, Melba had registered to make a difference but when she actually gets in she gets terrified and so does her family. She wants to revert her decision and regrets registering in the first place. This shows how scared white people were even being around whites. Even in her imagination, Melba was terrified but it was going to be a lot harder in real life to SURVIVE. More emphasis on the word survival here.

On page 42, when the extremely angry mob gathers in front of Central, Melba gets nervous as well as terrified. She is scared by the fact that people have come from as far as Georgia or Mississippi to halt integration. She is finally confronted by her grandmother who says, "You're not gonna let those white people make you nervous, are you? They are the same as us, God's children." On the same page, Melba counters to her by saying, "Central is not just a normal school." She is amazed by the fact that she is going into Central. She applauds the beauty and the

facilities students enjoy in the campus, but little does she know that she is not going to be able to use any of these. At the same time, she shows a worried expression on her face after hearing about the mob. On page 236, Melba has started writing diary entries wishing to die. She starts to doubt herself if she is strong enough to survive the school year. She feels herself growing nervous and weary. Melba approaches says to Grandma India, "I wish I were dead." she responds by saying, "Good idea, how did you plan on going about it? The sooner you start, the sooner you'll make the segregationists happy! They'll love broadcasting the headlines across the world.". She also says a lot of other things which make Melba think that dying is not a good idea and she starts praying with her Grandma.

The plot begins as Melba registers herself for Central High and gets in unexpectedly. She shows her nervousness about going to her dream school and is worried about her survival amid the angry segregationists. The rising action enters as soon as she steps in the school for the first time guarded by the soldiers and the abuse she has to tolerate inside. Her 101st bodyguard Andy trying to bring out the inner warrior inside Melba. All the horrible events mentioned in the book. On page 243, the climax enters as the Arkansas Gazette newspaper declares that Minnijean Brown, Melba's best friend has been expelled from the school. She tried to involve herself in the extracurricular activities inside so that she can change the minds of the white kids to give her an opportunity to prove herself. Also, Melba is being helped by a white kid named Link who tells her the plans of the segregationists to kill her. Melba thinks that it is too good to be true so she is always doubtful about Link. Phew! As if this is not less, Ernie's graduation ceremony is also a major climax as he is vulnerable to the crowd during the ceremony. Melba is worried about him she prays for him daily. She cannot go to the meet herself due to safety issues. At, the end, her prayers pay off and Ernie gets his graduation degree without any harm. After a never-ending

school-year, Melba receives several awards for her bravery in Chicago, but then she has to start over to complete her junior and senior year at Central. Governor Faubus shuts down the schools at Little Rock and the NAACP officials find some kind volunteers that would take care of Melba. She marries a smart guy named John that reminds her of Danny, her 101st bodyguard and Link, who saved her life multiple times. They later split up but he gives her a daughter named Kellie and Melba follows her dream of being a news reporter.

She looks back at her experience that acted as a positive force in the course of her life. It taught her to have courage and patience. It taught her that we all are not separate. She said, “The effort to separate ourselves whether by race, creed, color, or status is as costly to the separator as to those who would be separated.”, “The task that remains is to cope with our interdependence—to see ourselves reflected in other human beings and to respect and honor our differences.” Melba was a prominent figure in ending segregation. This not only gave Black people equal rights as whites but also people of different races and colors. Without the brave acts of Melba and the other students of Little Rock Nine, The U.S would not be the same as it is now.

Namaste

(The god in me sees and honors the god in you)