**Synopsis of UNITED STATES OF CHINA**

After uncovering a carefully guarded secret—the fact that China instigated the U.S. Civil War of **2035**—Teegan, the 16-year-old Eurasian daughter of a Chinese General is shocked. When the government finds out that she has captured the evidence on video, they imprison her father and attempt to arrest her. She escapes her home in New Hampshire in the middle of the night. She decides to head to Capitol Hill to make the truth known before a critical vote. Teegan knows that her video can change the course of history. As the daughter of the man who orchestrated the brutal Purge, she feels a moral obligation to do so.

She hides in a freight train heading for Springfield, MA. There, She meets two saboteurs, Harry and Jim, who just blew up a bridge she was about to cross. Fleeing together the United Republic Front (URF) who has come to investigate the explosion, the teens head back to Harry’s home. Teegan meets Laura, Harry’s nine-year-old sister who quickly becomes fond of Teegan.

A URF drone finds out where the teens are hiding and they have to flee. After a brief encounter with the U.S. Resistance, they hide in an abandoned house. A bounty hunter captures Teegan but she manages to kill him and escape.

Using the bounty hunter’s car, the teens head for D.C. but a major snowstorm hits the East Coast. They take refuge in an abandoned bar. Using a swarm of nanotechnology mosquitoes, The URF track them down and send soldiers in exosuits to capture them.

The teens are brought to a detainment facility in Texas. There, Teegan learns that Adrian, who was her best friend in school, was actually a bodyguard assigned to protect her by her father. Adrian frees Teegan and her friends. He also declares his love for Teegan. The URF are about to re-capture them when Adrian sacrifices himself, allowing them to escape.

After an encounter with a religious cult lead by a Moses-like figure, they head to a black market. Jim and Laura leave the group. Harry and Teegan barter for tickets for the bullet train between Dallas and D.C. Teegan starts to fall for Harry.

They board the train and get off at the Central Station in D.C. However, a passenger recognizes Teegan and alerts the authorities. A breathless pursuit ensues. The teens manage to escape down the construction chute of a building. They lose themselves in a crowd of half a million protesters. They have just over an hour before the historic vote begins. They jostle their way to Capitol Hill. The entrance is shut because of the protests. Guards nervously patrol the rampart’s walkway. Aircraft are the only vehicles entering or leaving the Capitol Grounds. The Senate building is tantalizingly close—only a few hundred yards.

Starting to despair, the couple circles the rampart looking for a way in. Harry sports a filming tower that his positioned next to the wall, but it is guarded. Taking an immense risk, he surrenders himself to the guard to create a diversion. This allows Teegan to climb up the tower, jump onto the rampart’s walkway and sneak inside the Capitol. However, a patrol spots her. She races into a vertical takeoff and landing aircraft sitting on the lawn and locks the door. A vehicle mounted with a machine gun approaches at high speed. It starts firing. With every bullet, the aircraft shakes and the spidery cracks on the windshield get bigger. Teegan has just enough time to duck before the windshield shatters into a million pieces. She puts the aircraft on autopilot, selects a random destination, and hurls herself out as the aircraft lurches into the air. Soon, the other aircraft take off in pursuit of the one she was just in. Teegan makes her way into the Senate building.

With only thirty minutes to go before the vote, she races to find Senator Rupert. He recognizes Teegan, having met her briefly in Boston. She shows him the video. The senator is livid. He agrees to show it to the Members of Congress before the vote as a matter of national importance. Teegan accompanies Senator Rupert to the Congress room. She inserts the memory card in the reader. As she is about to press play, she hears Luo, her archenemy, in her earpiece. He threatens to kill Harry if she does not destroy the memory card immediately. Teegan is torn. The senators are waiting anxiously, wondering what is going on. Just as Teegan admits to herself that she loves Harry and cannot bear to have his death on her conscience, Senator Rupert yanks Teegan’s shoulder. Teegan hears a gunshot and the earpiece goes silent.

Senator Rupert presses the play button. The senators are scandalized. They vote to send the Chinese troops home, but for Teegan, this is just a bittersweet victory as she is convinced Harry is dead.

Chairman Zhang, who is implicated in the scandal, is placed under house arrest. Before he leaves, he makes it clear to Teegan that she will pay dearly for what she has done. Teegan is relieved to find out that Harry has survived. She also learns that her father has escaped prison, but he is nowhere to be found.

Teegan goes and lives with Harry and Laura. She organizes a Hungry Ghost Ceremony in memory of the dead by the small river running behind Harry’s house in Concord.

After four months, the Chinese troops have yet to leave American soil. One morning, she gets a voicemail from Senator Rupert. He didn’t tell her what it was about, but she could hear the concern in his voice. This leads to book two of the trilogy, THE RED HOUSE.