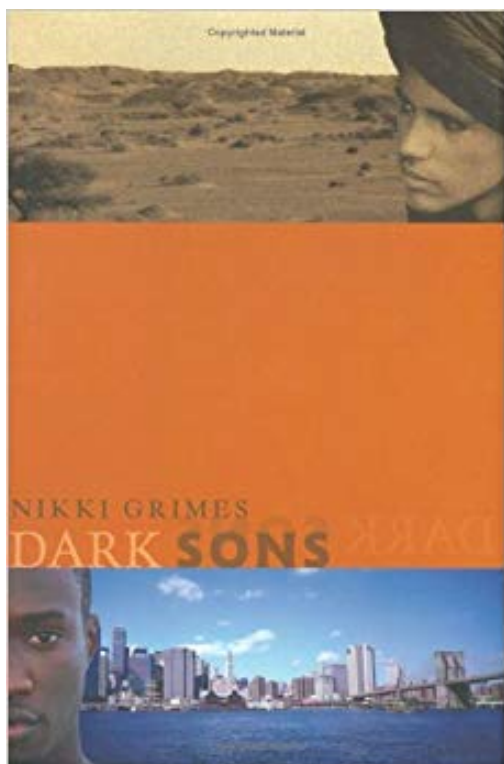


## Dark Sons (Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books) by Nikki Grimes



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**Author:** Nikki Grimes

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Sam can't believe it when his father leaves the family to marry another woman-and a white woman, at that. The betrayal cuts deep-Sam had been so close to his dad, and idolized him. Now who can he turn to, who can he trust? Even God seems to have ditched him. Ishmael is his father's first son, the heir, his favorite. But when his father is visited by mysterious strangers who claim that Abraham's wife, Sarah, will finally give birth to a son, Ishmael is worried. And when baby Isaac arrives, Ishmael becomes more isolated from his father. Could Abraham's God, who had spoken to Ishmael's mother, to whom he has made countless sacrifices, now betray him in favor of this new son?



## Reviews of the Dark Sons (Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books) by Nikki Grimes

Fecage

Written in prose, this book allows you to flow ad ebb in a mot natural way. I am happy I made this purchase.

Umrdana  
Book: Dark Sons  
Author: Nikki Grimes  
Rating: 3 Out of 5 Stars

I would like to thank the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with this galley.

Dark Sons gives the reader a look at two boys from two completely different time periods. Both boys have issues with their fathers. Sam lives in the modern world and has to deal with his father leaving his family. Ishmael is the son of Abraham and Hagar, who finds himself being pushed aside for his younger brother Isaac. Both of them feel as if their fathers have disappointed and are trying to overcome this great disappointment. This part I actually liked. To me, it was so realistic and I could just feel the pain of the two boys coming right off the page.

This book is written in verse, which is fine in some cases. However, I do really feel like I could have connected more with this story had it been written in traditional format. The usage of verse just made the entire book seem overly simplified. The subject matter of this book is not really simple, but the verse format makes it seem so. It just takes away from the beauty that this one could have had. It just leaves us with a very basic picture of the boys and we have to guess everything else. The book just needed to be a little bit longer in order for the verse format to work.

Like I have already pointed out, the writing is rather sparse, but it is full of emotion. I did feel a lot of pull toward the boys and they did deal with something that so many kids do have to deal with. I do like how Nikki used the two different stories as a mirror for each other. You could just feel everything.

This is a quick, easy read, but it was just lacking something for me. It is a solid three star rating that doesn't deserve anything higher or lower. I would say that most middle scholars would probably like it, especially those who want something simple.

Rigiot  
About the Book:

A guy whose father ripped his heart out too.

You and me, Ishmael, we're brothers, two dark sons.

Destroyed, lost, and isolated, the perspectives of two teenage boys—modern-day Sam, and biblical Ishmael—unite over millennia to illustrate the power of forgiveness.

My Review:

First, I would like to say I love how the author split the book between modern day Sam and Bible times-Ishmael. I'm not a fan of the lay out but overall the writing was good. She did a fantastic job!

This is a story between two world that are remarkable different but have big similarities. Ishmael felt rejected by everyone, I am sure---even God. Sam and Ishmael both had a lot of adversities to overcome and a lot of racial and ethnic divides that forced them into a corner that many minorities have to battle every day.

The author was able to correlate between the two and provide a path to forgiveness. Forgiveness that was very much needed on both ends of the spectrum.

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the author. All opinions are my own.

Lyrtois

Written in the same style as *A Girl Named Mister*, Nikki Grimes' *Dark Sons* follows the same pattern of a Biblical voice and modern day teenager. Dealing with different themes of longing and desire to be loved, *Dark Sons* is another quick read for fans of lyrical and poetic writing.

I have to admit, this one was a bit more sad for me than the last one. I couldn't help but think of all the Sams I know (or have known) who are dealt hard blows and, while it's a hard road, come out stronger for it. I thought Grimes did an excellent job with the emotions of each character in the short journal like entries.

I liked that it was from a viewpoint of Ishmael. I often find it easy to forget that these big names of the Bible were people just like me. With hurts, longings and desires. I thought Grimes did an excellent job exploring what it would have been like for Abraham's son.

This is my second book from Nikki Grimes and I look forward to more! Who have you recently read multiple books of?

(Thank you to BlinkYA for a copy of the book. All views expressed are my own.)

BeatHoWin

A must read! Especially for young men who have experienced the divorce of their parents due to adultery. Excellent book told from a biblical perspective.

Hidden Winter

*Dark Sons* parallels the lives of two individuals that undergo similar circumstances ages apart. The struggle is real for each character. I loved the use of the biblical references.

Joni\_Dep

What a great book! I'd read it about four years ago and picked it up again. Now that my own son is a teenager, it seems even more powerful and real. A wonderful story of two boys trying to make peace with their god and with the challenging circumstances they've been given. As another reviewer said, the language has a enjoyable poetic flow to it, but at the same time it is easy to read. A little background knowledge of the biblical story is helpful, but it would still be a good read without it. This book is a compilation of poems. The description made the book appear as if it were a story instead of a book of poems.

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