The Sacrifice of Darkness
by Roxane Gay, Tracy Lynne Oliver, and Rebecca Kirby.

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The Sacrifice of Darkness, written by Roxanne Gay and Tracy
Lynne Oliver, illustrated by Rebecca Kirby, follows both Joshua
and Claire’s story about the aftermath of the sun going dark and
how the darkness is threatening to engulf their world. The story
begins with Hiram Hightower soaring into the sun. Hiram no
longer feels joy from his job as a miner since it took away his
time with his family and above ground. This overwhelming pressure from the company to work
causes him to fly directly into the sun, plunging the world into darkness.

Due to his father’s actions, Joshua, the child of Hiram and his spouse Mara, is an outcast at
school. Despite this, Claire befriends Joshua, and, over time, they fall in love. Their story
intertwines with Mara and Hiram’s past throughout the book. On the anniversary of the sun’s
disappearance, Joshua and his mother fall under deeper scrutiny of the town. One day, the
council demands a sacrifice from the Hightowers. However, instead of accepting the darkness
closing in further, Joshua and Claire must figure out how to bring the light back to the world.

The color palette flows between the two main narratives in two muted but poignant color
schemes. Hiram and Mara’s storyline happens before the darkness and is pink, blue, and purples
tones. Joshua and Mara’s colors are yellow, orange, and red and are during the dark phase. Other
colors are used in the book, but very sparingly. As the darkness follows one narrative, the lighter
hues of the other play off another, reminding us there is the light between the dark.

This commentary on survival, class, and coming of age is perfect for the collections of academic
and public libraries. Due to mature themes throughout the book, it is recommended for 18 and
up.