



## **BOOK REVIEW**

**By Esther Muinde**

### ***Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan***

Golden Boy addresses the plight of people living with albinism in Tanzania. The golden boy was born different from the rest in the family (light eyes, yellow hair and white skin). This made him feel strange and lonely. Due to his condition, his father abandoned the family and he could not also play with the other kids. They suffered eviction from their home which led them to seek refuge from his mother's sister at Mwanza. The journey to Mwanza was through the Serengeti whereby they met with an ivory poacher by the name Alasiri. Along with poaching animals, he also hunted albino body parts which were believed to bring good luck. Mwanza was not a safe place for the Golden Boy as his auntie said, "you should go to Dar es Salaam. There have been no albino killings."

The poacher attacked him at his Auntie's place, but luckily, he managed to narrowly escape and travelled to Dar es Salaam by train. At Dar es Salaam he walked around the city covering his face so that people could not recognize him. Later he felt hungry and planned to steal a meal from an old man, but his plan failed as the old man caught him. Later the old man befriended him and hosted the boy at his home. The old man was a carver who later trained the boy on doing carvings and also how to sell at the shop. After a while, the poacher visited the old man with a need of getting ivory carvings. The old man declined the offer since it was an illegal business but later learnt from the boy that the man once wanted to kill him at Mwanza. They reported the matter to the police and managed to stage an event in which the poacher was arrested.

## **LESSONS LEARNT**

Love and acceptance matter a lot to people living with special conditions.

### **Quote**

"As long as you know your worth, other people will catch on eventually."