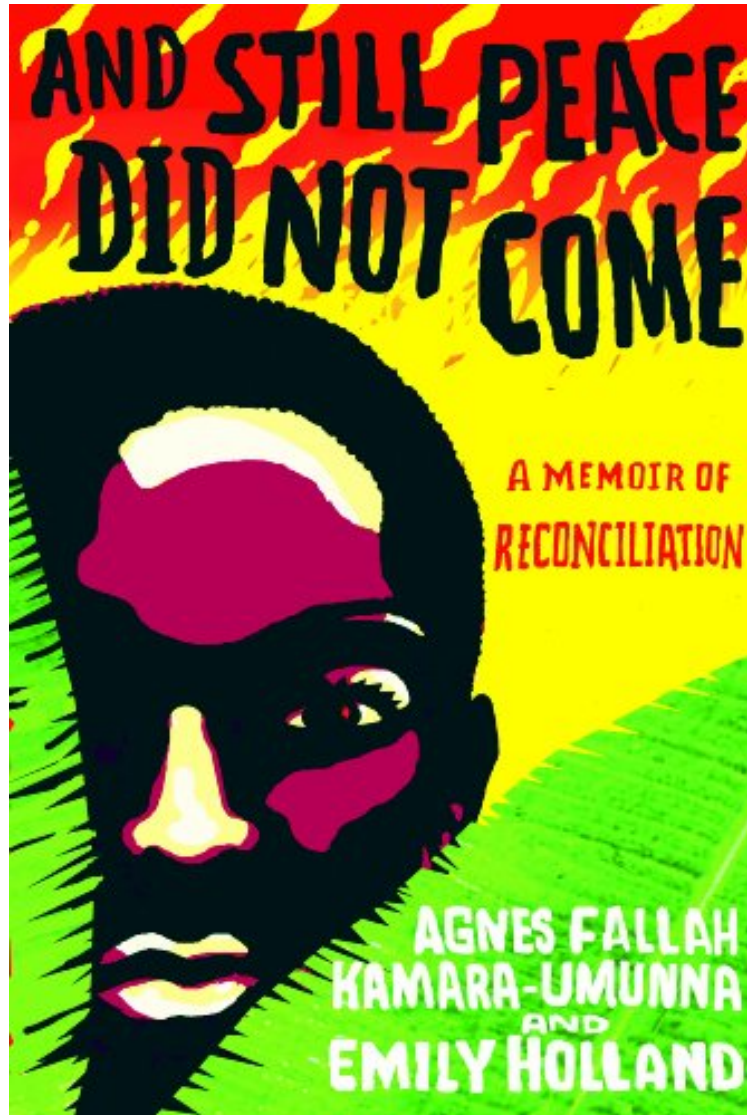


(Free pdf) And Still Peace Did Not Come: A Memoir of Reconciliation

And Still Peace Did Not Come: A Memoir of Reconciliation

Agnes Fallah Kamara-Umunna, Emily Holland
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Agnes Fallah Kamara-Umunna, Emily Holland : And Still Peace Did Not Come: A Memoir of Reconciliation
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And Still Peace Did Not Come: A Memoir of Reconciliation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. my imagination would never have been so aware of the haunting truths that are yet being still exposed.By Jim PattonIn the early morning hours today, I finished reading Agnes' memoir And Still Peace Did Not Come.Your efforts in bringing this story to light are worthwhile. The appreciation I have for you reading my words is nearly as much as I have for my being able to have such a story be put in to words of

understanding. Its creation is a touching and brilliant collection that's taken me in to a world outside of my own experiences. It communicates that which, in the relative stable communities I've lived, most would find what's happened hard to find an attachment of sentiment. If not for reading the story, my imagination would never have been so aware of the haunting truths that are yet being still exposed. Every minute of every day, the ones who have been there will most likely not be able to escape the nightmares which reach in to their memories and re-open the scars on the wounded emotions of their lives. I'd often wondered what had occurred in Liberia. The pictures I now have are vivid. Each one, in mind, has a clearly inscribed thought attached: There are lines and lines attesting to the horror. The depictions of humanistic cruelty are sobering views. That realism, unknown to so many, I hope will never befall upon any I love, know, or am even remotely acquainted with. Such monstrous devastations I could wish upon no people! In reading *And Still Peace Did Not Come*, the spirit in my heart felt a sorrowfulness for those who've suffered through that part of Liberian history which was shown to me. However, in coming to feel the sorrow, my mind strengthened against an acceptance of such horridness. I do accept that there should not be such pains inflicted upon any people. Yes, it's been said that war is hell but this story gives details to fiends that have created a devilish domain that has far exceeded the definitions once thought to be sufficient for an explanation of dire situations.... this new-hell is a current creation that none should condone or even consider as a no comment occurrence. In closing, thank you. The book cry's out for a hope. The tears I do see, the pain I do feel, and most of all I believe that others will see and feel the same hope too. Sincerely, Jim Patton Ventura County California mailjp@roadrunner.com

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *And Still Peace Did Not Come: A great book* By Ichi Vazquez As someone who knew little to nothing about Liberia before traveling there over the summer for the first time, "And Still Peace Did Not Come" was one of the more engaging reads of the year for me, and provided a valuable window of insight and memories from Liberia's war-torn past. It was an extremely easy and fast read, and the writing was uncomplicated and straight to the point; I found that the stories in this book were powerful enough on their own that this approach worked very well. Agnes' tale of taking steps to encourage reconciliation between Liberia's ex-child soldiers and civilian victims of two gruesome civil wars is extremely courageous and admirable. Agnes laid the foundation for integration for many of these soldiers, and their stories show us that when it comes to war - whether one is the perpetrator or the victim - no one is left unscathed, and often the line that separate the two is blurry. I also found that this book truly highlighted the strength and resilience of the Liberian people, and put the country's current path to recovery, with all its obstacles, into sharper context. Thank you Agnes and Emily, for the great read. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in going to Liberia or learning more about the country, as well as understanding the severe physical and psychological consequences of war and its effect on the children, young men and women caught in it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Compelling account of war and reconciliation in Liberia* By Florence Agnes Kamara-Umunna brings us on a painful and thought provoking journey as she explores the legacies of war and the possibilities for reconciliation. Liberians suffered appallingly during the civil war (1989-2003) with both child and adult soldiers inflicting almost unbelievable horror on the civilian population. Agnes Kamara-Umunna interviewed many victims on her radio program after the war. She then became interested in the boys who had been forced to be child soldiers, and came to appreciate that they were victims of a sort too. Umunna's book takes us into the years of suffering and out the other side with detailed interviews with perpetrators and victims. The book offers no easy answers nor way to peace, but empathy, love, and understanding are some of the hallmarks both of this beautiful book and the message it tries to convey. This is a book of relevance to scholars and anyone interested in Liberia. It also has much to say to anyone interested in issues of transitional justice, post-conflict, and masculinity studies. It is well worth reading.

When bullets hit Agnes Kamara-Umunna's home in Monrovia, Liberia, she and her father hastily piled whatever they could carry into their car and drove toward the border, along with thousands of others. An army of children was approaching, under the leadership of Charles Taylor. It seemed like the end of the world. Slowly, they made their way to the safety of Sierra Leone. They were the lucky ones. After years of exile, with the fighting seemingly over, Agnes returned to Liberia--a country now devastated by years of civil war. Families have been torn apart, villages destroyed, and it seems as though no one has been spared. Reeling, and unsure of what to do in this place so different from the home of her memories, Agnes accepted a job at the local UN-run radio station. Their mission is peace and their method is reconciliation through understanding and communication. Soon, she came up with a daring plan: Find the former child soldiers, and record their stories. And so Agnes, then a 43-year-old single mother of four, headed out to the ghettos of Monrovia and befriended them, drinking Club Beer and smoking Dunhill cigarettes with them, earning their trust. One by one, they spoke on her program, *Straight from the Heart*, and slowly, it seemed like reconciliation and forgiveness might be possible. From Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first female president, to Butt Naked, a warlord whose horrific story is as unforgettable as his nickname--everyone has a story to tell. Victims and perpetrators. Boys and girls, mothers and fathers. Agnes comforts rape survivors, elicits testimonials from warlords, and is targeted with death threats--all live on the air. Set in a place where monkeys, not raccoons, are the scourge of homeowners; the trees have roots like elephant legs; and peacebuilding is happening from the ground-up. Harrowing,

bleak, hopeful, humorous, and deeply moving--*And Still Peace Did Not Come* is not only Agnes's memoir: It is also her testimony to a nation's descent into the horrors of civil war, and its subsequent rise out of the ashes.

About the Author Agnes Kamara-Umunna was born in Liberia where she hosted the radio program *Straight From the Heart* and is a statement taker for the Liberia Truth Reconciliation Commission. She lives in New York with her three children. Emily Holland is an in-house producer and reporter for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), has contributed to *JANE Magazine*, *The Princeton Alumni Weekly*, and writes a "Dispatches from a Humanitarian Journalist" column for Dave Eggers's online publication *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*.