



War Child: A Child Soldier's Story

By Emmanuel Jal

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In the mid-1980s, Emmanuel Jal was a seven year old Sudanese boy, living in a small village with his parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. But as Sudan's civil war moved closer—with the Islamic government seizing tribal lands for water, oil, and other resources—Jal's family moved again and again, seeking peace. Then, on one terrible day, Jal was separated from his mother, and later learned she had been killed; his father Simon rose to become a powerful commander in the Christian Sudanese Liberation Army, fighting for the freedom of Sudan. Soon, Jal was conscripted into that army, one of 10,000 child soldiers, and fought through two separate civil wars over nearly a decade.

But, remarkably, Jal survived, and his life began to change when he was adopted by a British aid worker. He began the journey that would lead him to change his name and to music: recording and releasing his own album, which produced the number one hip-hop single in Kenya, and from there went on to perform with Moby, Bono, Peter Gabriel, and other international music stars.

Shocking, inspiring, and finally hopeful, *War Child* is a memoir by a unique young man, who is determined to tell his story and in so doing bring peace to his homeland.

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Editorial Review

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As a young kid barely able to carry a gun, Jal, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, witnessed and perpetrated unspeakable brutality in his country's civil war, but he has not only found refuge in the U.S. but also become an international rap star for peace. His violent memories are graphically relayed in this powerful autobiography. At age 9, he smashed faces with machetes as his friend plunged a bayonet into an enemy's stomach. What is amazing in this story is how Jal has been able to let go of his rage. His family gone, he was adopted by a British aid worker, who took him to Kenya, where he struggled in school. But eventually, inspired by Gandhi, King, and Mandela, he turned to music and the idea of rapping for peace ("no tribalism, nepotism, and racism in my motherland"). And his songs climbed the charts. With the intense personal story, Jal also brings in political issues not confronted in other books about the Sudanese War, including the crucial role of oil ("black gold") in the ethnic conflict. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"Disturbing and visceral...Jal tells his story in spare, direct, and searing prose that leaves nothing to the imagination and offers a close-up view of the damage done to the psyches of children turned into warriors." -
-Library Journal

"Frank, unsparing...[A] searing portrait of a war-torn youth turned community advocate and role model."--*Kirkus Reviews*

"Powerful...[an] intense personal story." --*Booklist*

"There's no glamour here, no pitched battles, only unimaginable misery... Utterly grounded, specific and real... You'll come away from this book loving Emmanuel Jal."--*Washington Post*

"Fast-paced...stark...a provocative challenge." --*The New York Times*

About the Author

EMMANUEL JAL lives in London. His music has been featured in the movie *Blood Diamond*, the documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*, and in three episodes of *ER*. He is a spokesman for Amnesty International and Oxfam, and has done work for Save the Children, UNICEF, World Food Programme, Christian Aid, and other charities, and has established his own charitable foundation, Gaa Africa, to help former Sudanese child soldiers. He has been featured in *Time Magazine*, *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek.com*, and on NPR, CNN, Fox, MTV, and the BBC. A documentary about Jal's life, also called *War Child*, premiered to acclaim at the February 2008 Berlin Film Festival and the April 2008 Tribeca Film Festival. His first U.S. album *War Child* was released in May 2008.

Jal also plays one of the "lost boys" of Sudan in *The Good Lie*, released in October 2014 starring Reese Witherspoon.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Clayton:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for us. The book War Child: A Child Soldier's Story had been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The e-book War Child: A Child Soldier's Story is not only giving you far more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship using the book War Child: A Child Soldier's Story. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

John Keys:

This book untitled War Child: A Child Soldier's Story to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it by using online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

Kevin Blais:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book War Child: A Child Soldier's Story it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

Carolyn Ziolkowski:

Within this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you must do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. On the list of books in the top list in your reading list is actually War Child: A Child Soldier's Story. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upwards and review this book you can get many advantages.

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