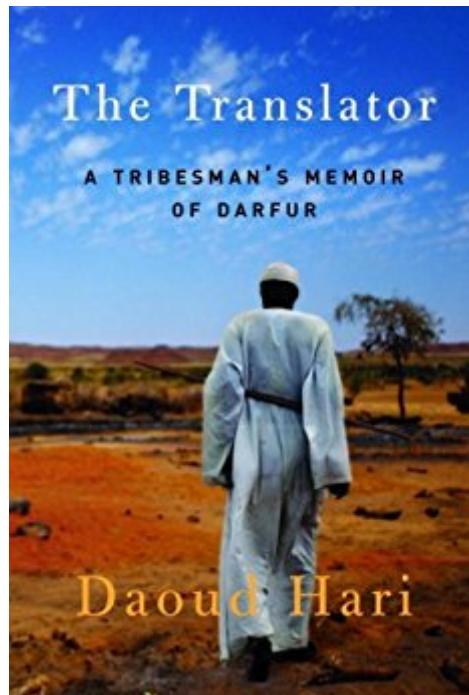




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The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir Of Darfur



Synopsis

I am the translator who has taken journalists into dangerous Darfur. It is my intention now to take you there in this book, if you have the courage to come with me. The young life of Daoud Hari "his friends call him David" has been one of bravery and mesmerizing adventure. He is a living witness to the brutal genocide under way in Darfur. The Translator is a suspenseful, harrowing, and deeply moving memoir of how one person has made a difference in the world "an on-the-ground account of one of the biggest stories of our time. Using his high school knowledge of languages as his weapon "while others around him were taking up arms" Daoud Hari has helped inform the world about Darfur. Hari, a Zaghawa tribesman, grew up in a village in the Darfur region of Sudan. As a child he saw colorful weddings, raced his camels across the desert, and played games in the moonlight after his work was done. In 2003, this traditional life was shattered when helicopter gunships appeared over Darfur's villages, followed by Sudanese-government-backed militia groups attacking on horseback, raping and murdering citizens and burning villages. Ancient hatreds and greed for natural resources had collided, and the conflagration spread. Though Hari's village was attacked and destroyed his family decimated and dispersed, he himself escaped. Roaming the battlefield deserts on camels, he and a group of his friends helped survivors find food, water, and the way to safety. When international aid groups and reporters arrived, Hari offered his services as a translator and guide. In doing so, he risked his life again and again, for the government of Sudan had outlawed journalists in the region, and death was the punishment for those who aided the "foreign spies." And then, inevitably, his luck ran out and he was captured. . . . The Translator tells the remarkable story of a man who came face-to-face with genocide " time and again risking his own life to fight injustice and save his people. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

A beautiful, clearly-written book by a man whose dedication to helping journalists makes my mind reel. Truly amazing. I read recently the author is driving a cab in the US. That is a crime, because clearly he has incredible talent and more stories to tell.

This book of murders begins with: "I know most people want others to have good lives and ... will do what they can to steer the world back toward kindness." Daoud Hari writes of small birds falling dead from his robes, "their hearts broken by this noise" of gunfire. He describes a woman newly hanging in a tree and a child alone waving at him from a killing field. He writes of Sudan atrocities, of cascading death in Darfur and of small blooms of life surviving. To have survived at all is a surprise. To have survived with dignity and hope is miraculous. The Translator tells of cruelty, tells it again and again in clear, simple language. Just as there is unfathomable madness infecting the killers in this story, there is nearly equal bewilderment at the grace of this humble soul able to tell it. It will hurt you to read it. And the ache will be greater still after reading the Appendix that reprints the universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948. Mr. Hari's book tells of endless violations of virtually all the 30 Articles of the Declaration in the last ten years. I'm sad I read The Translator but thankful, as well. It is a painfully moving book.

Written for a very general public, in a simple but moving style. Even for those who are relatively well-read regarding Darfur, there are insights - and ghastly details - which don't make it into the press. Very interesting to read how an individual who has lived through some of these horrors can assimilate them and nevertheless continue a sane life.

This was well a written and vivid description of the horrors of the genocide in Darfur. Thoughtful and intense with emotion. I finished it several days ago and still think of some of the horrors he described. There is one intensely gripping scene of a father and his little girl who runs to him only to

be stabbed. She continues to cry out to him as she is dying. There is another touching scene where he talks to some of the boys holding him captive. It is good to think about their lack of choices in life (and many others we condemn point blank without realizing the horror they grow up in). He describes how, through words he starts to massage some of the humanity back into their soul. Very touching and a good reminder that kindness, education and opportunity would do more to end the horrors of this world than all the armies. It might be nice if we listened more to men like Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr instead of our eye for an eye mentality. Daoud is absolutely amazing with the courage he shows not just shuttling journalists but staying when he could have left, knowing he would certainly face torture. Amazing.

A fast read, written simply. But don't be put off by that summary. This is a strong story and an insight into the Darfur tragedy. The author writes with clarity to the point he will sometimes give the western reader a definition of a word that we would not normally know. This was a fast read, partly because of the last third that is a harrowing experience by the author and two others. The author faced death numerous times and was ready to face the reaper. The reader is glad he survived so this story could be told. Would give it six stars if they were available.

Daoud Hari is indeed a blessed man to have survived capture and imprisonment- risking his life to tell the world of the human tragedy called Darfur. This book speaks volumes of his profound courage and of the brave reporters and others who ventured right into the line of fire so that the world will know. The heartbreaking descriptions of the carnage is hard to read at times, but I am most haunted by the child sitting in the grass who stopped crying and waved goodbye as Daoud and the news crew had to run for their lives. This is one man's tale of survival on a tragic journey and his willingness to fight injustice. He is blessed because there are those who must survive to tell the world. We can each make a difference.

This book is amazing! I knew the situation in Darfur was bad, but this narrative makes it more real. Some of the things that have happened over there are worse than unforgivable. I wish I could go over there and stop the horror right now, but I'll have to settle for raising awareness and other "small" things I have the power to do. I highly recommend this book. You should read it, then write to your congressmen, urging them to push the government into doing something more to stop this nightmare. There are men out there who I would no longer consider human because of the atrocities they have committed. It's time for them to be stopped!

Unbelievable!!! Written with detail and feelings. Gives you a clear understanding of the tragedy called genocide. Definitely a must read.

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