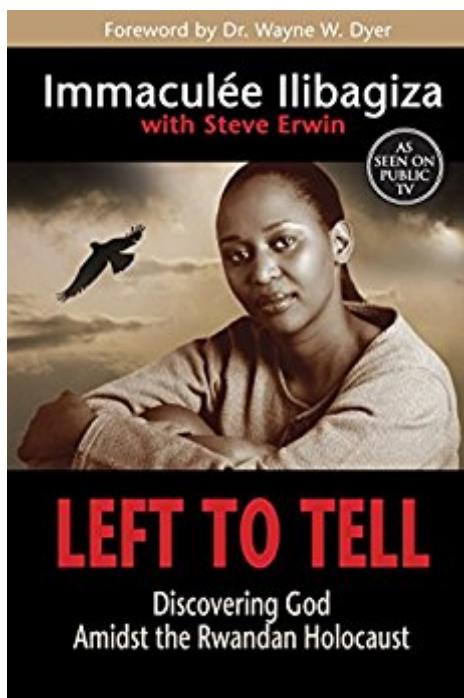


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Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst The Rwandan Holocaust



Synopsis

Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Immaculee's family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans. Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love—a love so strong she was able seek out and forgive her family's killers. The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss.

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book some time ago and misplaced it but wanted to share it with a friend, so I reordered it from her. I ordered it used and the copy was ok. Her story is amazing and truly causes you to look at life and compassion with new eyes. I think every young person should read this.

Upon my first look at this book I knew the story line could go one of two ways, either this book was going to be very well told, personal and something the reader could relate on some level to or this book was going to be choppy, impersonal and something the reader could not relate to. I was pleasantly surprised when not only did Immaculee tell her story, she told it in such a way that I as the reader felt her fear, anger, sadness and ultimately forgiveness. Throughout the story it is easy to admire Immaculee's strength and empathize with her sorrow over the loss of her family. Her strength is shown multiple times throughout the story, you experience her strength when she runs away from the people that just killed her family and when she hides in a bathroom with seven other women for 91 days. Her sorrow is shown as the Hutu's are hunting her down and when she is taken from the people she loves to a refugee Tutsi camp. This book is not only a personal account of a tragic event, it is also a personal account to a faith walk like no other. After Immaculee's family is murdered, she hates the Hutu's for what they did to her family and herself. She somehow finds the strength and love in herself to forgive every person that had done wrong to her and her family and almost loves them with the same compassion that she had before this mass killing occurred. I have never in my life read a book that was so encouraging in such a time of sadness and horror. Immaculee shows strength and dignity throughout the whole story. I would recommend this story to anyone who wants to read a story about historical events in the eyes of someone who lived it.

This book was extraordinary. I immediately became attached to the characters of this nonfiction novel. Ilibagiza did a spectacular job of catching the horrors of the Rwandan Genocide. To say that I hadn't a clue about this event in history would be a severe understatement; I was extremely naive to what happened in this country in the 1990s. So reading this book really opened my eyes to the realities of the time. I noticed how she didn't seem to spare the audience of any details of her tragic life. She gave to us her very personal feelings and experiences (both physical and spiritual). I felt like I was right there beside her in the cramped bathroom, getting goosebumps as I imagined the blood-thirsty murderers searching for her. She did such a good job of making her family seem real to the reader that tears came to my eyes as I learned of their deaths. What I found inspiring was how she became closer to God through all this;

she wouldn't abandon her faith in him. I think my favorite part was when she told one of the murderers that she forgave him. This truly showed the type of person that Immaculee is. This book inspired me to not take my relationships with my friends and family for granted. It left me with the desire to become a better person.

Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by the author by Immaculee Ilibagiza is a book that we can all learn from. It is a heart wrenching book that recounts what her life was like during the holocaust in Rwanda. She gives very graphic details about what happened but in all of it, she was able to find God and forgive. In page 210, she talks about Rwanda healing when the hearts learn how to forgive. It is hard to understand how and why she forgave all the cruelty but she finds a way to get her message across using herself as an example. The book is a great book but it is very sad and tragic. I would not recommend it to those seeking something comedic or happy. The book is very emotional and can make people cry so I would recommend it to those who are trying to find God in the dark. Immaculee doesn't only focus on forgiveness but she also focuses on how she found God and it is a really inspiring book. It gives people more insight and faith. This can be seen toward the end of the book where we see her help others forgive and have faith. Overall, the book is a very inspiring book that can help a lot of people.

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