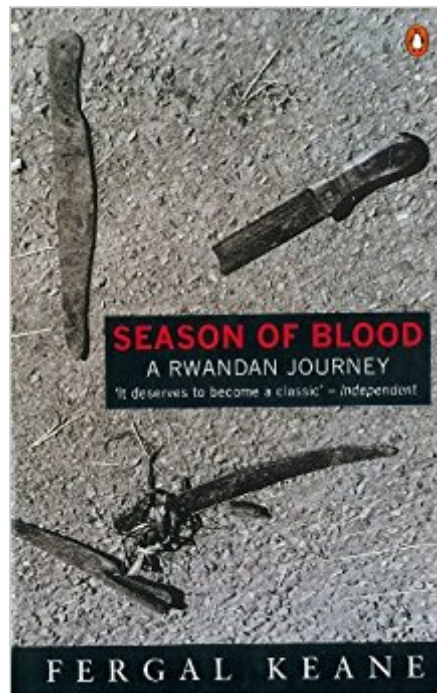




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Season Of Blood: A Rwandan Journey



Synopsis

When President Habyarimana's jet was shot down in April 1994, Rwanda erupted into a hundred-day orgy of killing which left up to a million dead. Fergal Keane travelled through the country as the genocide was continuing, and his powerful analysis reveals the terrible truth behind the headlines. A tender, angry account As well as being a scathing indictment Keane says the genocide inflicted on the Tutsis was planned well in advance by Hutu leaders this is a graphic view of news-gathering in extremis. It deserves to become a classic Independent.

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Customer Reviews

Fergal Keane, an Irish journalist, formerly BBC correspondent in South Africa, was sent in 1994 to cover the war in Rwanda that had left one million Tutsis dead, most of them gruesomely hacked to death by their Hutu neighbors. The power of this account lies in Keane's profound emotional shock at barely imaginable cruelty, and in the personal testimony of the survivors he interviewed. Keane also searches for meaning. Like many familiar with Africa, he rejects the too easy explanation of "tribal hatred," with its assumption that the problem is intractable and internal. He emphasizes instead the economic and class disparities driving a political bloodlust, reminiscent perhaps of revolutionary France. Even though understanding such atrocity seems out of reach, Keane bears eloquent witness to evil. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Winner of Britain's Orwell Prize for best political book of 1995, this searing, impassioned eyewitness account of the genocide of Rwanda's Tutsi minority by Hutu extremists dispels a number of media-sustained myths surrounding the slaughter in 1994 of a million people. BBC reporter and documentary filmmaker Keane saw absolutely no evidence to support the widely held belief that the Tutsis—who once comprised Rwanda's ruling class, abetted by German and Belgian colonialists—are lighter-skinned than Hutus. Contrary to the view that mutual hatred between tribes spontaneously erupted into irrational violence, he demonstrates that the killings were planned well in advance by a clique close to Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana. Bitterly resentful of the prospect of sharing power with the Tutsis, this clique created its own civilian militia and mounted a virulent propaganda campaign scapegoating Tutsis. The principal architects of the genocide found a haven in Zaire and Tanzania. Blaming the U.S., the European Community and the U.N. for failing to halt mass murder, Keane calls on the international community to assist Rwanda's new government, formed after the death of Habyarimana in a plane crash in April 1994. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hard to say I love it because the scenes described were so disturbing. But it was written in a way that made you feel like you were riding along and seeing what was he was seeing. I gave it a 5 star because it is a book that should be read and not forgotten. When genocide rears its ugly head again it should be recognized for what it is and a loud cry should be given so that governments need to take action a hell of a lot sooner than what they did to the Rwandan situation. But then history has shown that it seems to be the way with governments reaction to genocide.

After watching "Swimming to Cambodia" Spalding Gray said one line that I'll paraphrase, "Maybe there's this great cloud of evil that floats over the planet and randomly lands somewhere every so often." Well, from Cambodia to Rwanda, that about sums it up because there is really no other explanation for the horrors of the genocide that occurred there. Feargal Keane has written a superb account of his journey into Rwanda shortly after the 1994 genocide. It's a well-balanced look at both sides with Keane able to access both Hutu and Tutsi areas (albeit sometimes with great difficulty and not a little danger). The human face of the "war" so often missed by Western journalists is really brought to the fore by Keane's insightful and extremely compassionate account.

Great book, great narrative. The price is right on the quality material. If you want a reading, that's ok. If you want as well a book to last, you should consider in paying a little bit more for a hard cover.

An excellent guide to the story of the genocide in Rwanda and will certainly appeal to those with an interest in the country and perhaps also those with an interest in Africa and the many problems that exist on the continent.

An incredible, but devastating book. I wish everyone would pick it up and read it. It changed my life to be honest; It has helped remind me why I want to become a nurse with its gripping accounts of human devastation.

Good as expected.

I bought this for a Grad class. It was absolutely intriguing. The author imbeds the tragedy of the Rwandan Massacres with his own personal accounts as a BBC reporter. Read the whole thing in a few hours.

Prior to my own trip to Rwanda in 1996 I read Keane's account of his trip in 1995. Now, years later I reflect on the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the countless others that recur with regularity throughout the history of mankind. I am weary of the endless bloodshed and stupidity of man that continues on to this very day. I watch my own country's foreign policy where the endless killing is done, not with machetes and spears while staring into the eyes of the victim, but antiseptically, with missiles and bombs from great distances--all with the silence and complicity of our citizenry. While in Rwanda I struggled, as did Keane to understand how individual men could exhibit such barbarity and in the end walked away without an answer. There have been many books written about those horrific events in 1994 but Keane's is the best I've read. He gives a good account of the long history of tribal strife in that area of the world and the complicity of the world colonial powers. He was on the scene in the immediate aftermath of the killing and hence gives an unvarnished account of the horrors and their effect on the witness/observer. At the end of the book is a tremendously helpful chronology covering the years from 1918, when the Treaty of Versailles transferred ownership of the former German colony to Belgium, through the genocide and subsequent liberation by the Tutsi dominated RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) in 1994. I wish it were fiction--but it was not--and I lament the truth of the tale. "And There I Was" by DH Koester

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