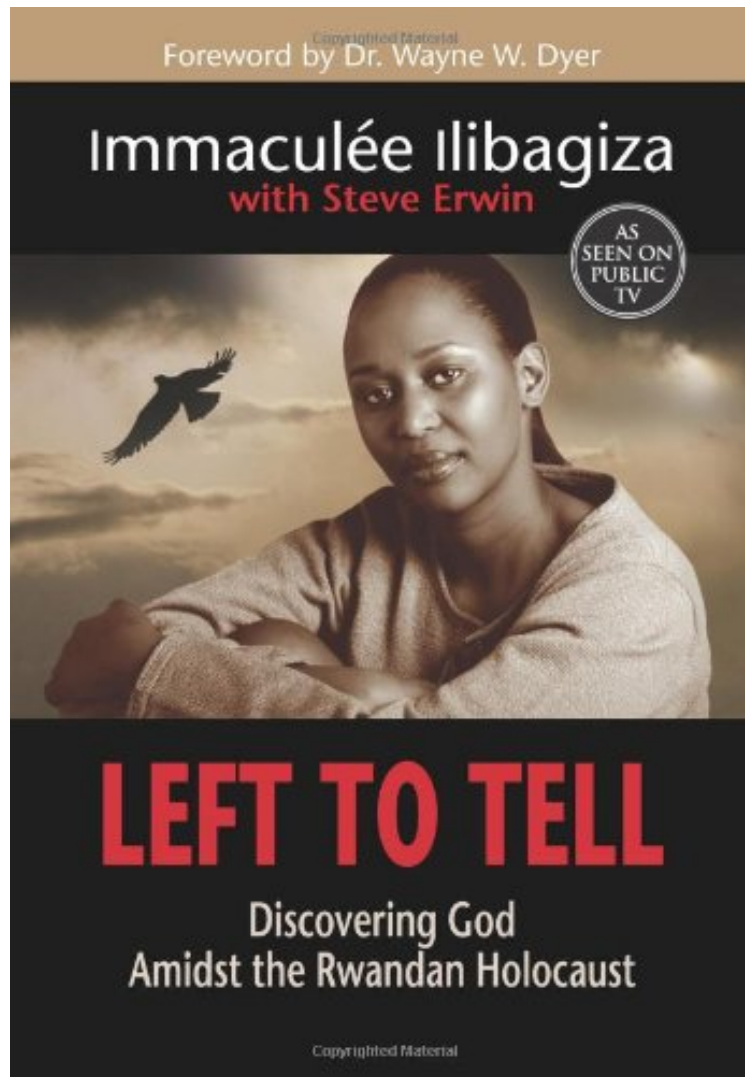


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Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust

Immaculee Ilibagiza

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Immaculee Ilibagiza : Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. More than 5 stars! By Woodley Lamousnery April 7, 1994 marked the beginning of the deadly Rwandan genocide. 4 months later, on July 15th was the day that signified the end of the tragic event. As the world's superpowers turned their backs, close to 1 million ethnic Tutsis, Twas, and sympathizing Hutus were slaughtered by Hutu government backed militia--the Interhamwe, who were brutally hacked by machetes while hiding in homes, churches, and in the forest. "Left to Tell" is told by Immaculee Ilibagiza of her horrific

experiences of the genocide and how faith became front and center throughout her plight. Immaculee, born a Tutsi, was raised in a small village, where both Tutsis and Hutus lived in harmony. Her parents were well known and respected in the community. No such ethnic differences ever existed to Immaculee. That was until April 7th when the president's plane was inexplicably shot down, igniting the fuel that would begin the killing of thousands of ethnic Tutsis. The core setting takes place in a small, tightly, confined bathroom in the home of a Hutu pastor. This bathroom is what would become a sanctuary for these women. Immaculee is sent to the pastor's home by her father, knowing that he would take her in. For 3 months, Immaculee and 6 other women were kept hidden inside the pastor's bathroom, sheltered from the atrocities surrounding them and surviving on meager scraps of left over food and a whole lot of prayer. It is prayer, faith, and forgiveness that are the themes of the book. The Interhamwes' search through the home created an intense environment for Immaculee and the other women. But, a hopeful and spiritual Immaculee, using the rosary given by her father, prayed fervently to the Lord in what ultimately gave her sanity, serenity, and strength. In the end, Immaculee was saved when she made it to safety at the French army base and eventually the RPF base in Kigali. Hearing the tragic news of her parents' death along with two brothers, left Immaculee devastated; she is indeed the only one "Left to Tell." Faith enabled Immaculee to forgive. With forgiveness, she moved on, started a family, and continues give public speeches about the tragic event, keeping alive the legacy of the Rwandan genocide. 20 years have passed since the slaughtering occurred. Numerous books have since been published on genocide. Testimonies such as "Left to Tell" questions our moral obligations to humanity and world peace. The responsibility lies in each of us; strengths in numbers against genocide sends a strong message to political leaders. Leaders will act based on those pressures from the countless individuals, who are looking to put an end on atrocities. For example, an era in U.S history I can reference from is the Vietnam war. Regular, ordinary people stood as a united front together protesting to end the war. People from all over the country stood for a common cause. I believe the same method could be applied to issues like this. Genocide can be something that existed in the pass and that has no place in the present or future. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Forgiveness of slaughters of millions of innocent people including her entire family is possible by the grace of God. By Janet Bedrosian Immaculee's story is one that the reader will never forget. It is very sadly true, the Rwandan Holocaust where 1 million Tutsi's were hacked to death, but Immaculee's faith never waivered. Hidden in a very tiny bathroom with 5 other women for 3 months, she lived in pure terror, but her relationship with God was extraordinary, and she was miraculously spared from slaughter, like her family was. It is a disturbing story, yet educational. The most profound message of her book was that she came to forgive all her killers. It is the reason that God spared her and had this great story that forgiveness is not only possible, but that God intended a mission for her to spread the Good News that forgiveness is possible. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A delightful woman telling her gruesome story By Judy By Judy This is one of those books that everyone should read. It is a hard story to read because of man's unbelievable inhumanity to man being displayed like the holocaust of Rwanda. This story reaches deep into the heart of the reader evoking feelings of horror, shame, and sorrow that leads to penance that friends and neighbors can turn on one another because of prejudice and commit horrible gruesome acts of murder and mayhem that happened in Rwanda. And we cringe in shame that we turned our backs on an innocent Christ loving people who were being hunted and killed by those who hated them for no other reason than that they were just a little different. A repeat of history of the Jewish Holocaust that is so well known. However, the story tells of a beautiful young woman's faith and courage that helped her to survive by hiding in a small bathroom with 7 other women for three months while her enemies called her name just outside her window, looking for her and threatening her very existence. The story tells of that beautiful young woman learning that her family had been murdered and the strength and fortitude it took for her to put her life back together after the killing stopped. It is a story of how she held on to the faith she learned as a child and put it into practice when all else failed her and by the grace of God, she survived and lived to tell her story. Immaculee Ilibagiza is a wonderful storyteller. I have heard her speak in person and she is a beautiful speaker as well. God has greatly blessed her with the grace of telling her story and the story of Rwanda before and after the holocaust. She is very inspirational and really shares her faith and love to those who read her books or hear her tell her story. If you want to grow in your faith and your love for other people who are 'different' from you, read this book. It is powerful and life changing! You might find out those other people aren't so 'different' after all. I know I did and I thank God that he put this book into my hands. I look forward to reading other books written by this delightful Christian woman.

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.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza was 22 years old and home from college to spend Easter with her devout Catholic family, when the death of Rwanda's Hutu president sparked a three-month slaughter of

nearly one million ethnic Tutsis in the country. She survived by hiding in a Hutu pastor's tiny bathroom with seven other starving women for 91 cramped, terrifying days. This searing firsthand account of Ilibagiza's experience cuts two ways: her description of the evil that was perpetrated, including the brutal murders of her family members, is soul-numbingly devastating, yet the story of her unquenchable faith and connection to God throughout the ordeal uplifts and inspires. Her account of the miracles that protected her is simple and vivid. Her Catholic faith shines through, but the book will speak on a deep level to any person of faith. Ilibagiza's remarkable path to forgiving the perpetrators and releasing her anger is a beacon to others who have suffered injustice. She brings the battlefield between good and evil out of the genocide around her and into her own heart, mind and soul. This book is a precious addition to the literature that tries to make sense of humankind's seemingly bottomless depravity and counterbalancing hope in an all-powerful, loving God. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author
Immacule Ilibagiza lost most of her family during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Four years later, she immigrated to the United States and began working at the United Nations in New York City. She now devotes herself full-time to public speaking and writing books that share her message of how faith and forgiveness can heal hearts and change the world. In 2007 she established the Left to Tell Charitable Fund, which helps support Rwandan orphans, and was awarded the Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace. Steve Erwin is a New York Times best-selling author and award-winning journalist. He has co-authored seven books and is currently working his second novel. He lives in New York City with his wife, journalist and author Natasha Stoyneff.