

*****New York Times Bestseller*****

A LONG WAY GONE
Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

by
Ishmael Beah

“Everyone in the world should read this book. Not just because it contains an amazing story, or because it’s our moral, bleeding-heart duty, or because it’s clearly written. We should read it to learn about the world and about what it means to be human.”

—*The Washington Post*

“Perhaps all that need be said about Beah’s skill as a storyteller is that while we know how he made it out—the book in our hands is proof of that—we are glued to every page by the very real possibility that this story is not going to end happily...Read his memoir and you will be haunted...It’s a high price to pay, but it’s worth it.”

—*Newsweek*

“A breathtaking and unselfpitying account of how a gentle spirit survives a childhood from which all the innocence has suddenly been sucked out. It’s truly a riveting memoir.”

—*Time*

“His honesty is exacting and a testament to the ability of children ‘to out live their sufferings, if given a chance.’”

—*The New Yorker*

“Told in clear, accessible language by a young writer with a gifted literary voice, this memoir seems destined to become a classic firsthand account of war.”

—*Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

“How is it possible that 26-year-old Beah, a nonnative English speaker, separated from his family at age 12, taught to maim and to kill at 13, can sound such notes of family happiness, of friendship under duress, of quiet horror? No outsider could have written this book, and it’s hard to imagine that many insiders could do so with such acute vision, stark language, and tenderness. It is a heart-rending achievement.”

—Melissa Fay Greene, *Elle*

You will never forget Ishmael Beah. In *A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER* the first-time author Beah tells a gripping story of a child's journey through hell and back.

There may be as many as 300,000 child soldiers, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s, in more than fifty conflicts around the world. Beah used to be one of them. He is one of the first to tell his story in his own words. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does he become a killer? How does he stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through war and survived to tell the tale.

In *A LONG WAY GONE*, Beah, now twenty-six years old, tells a riveting story. At the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. After three years as a soldier, a truck pulled into the army base and Beah and other young soldiers were released by their commander to UNICEF workers. Sent to a rehabilitation center, he struggled to regain his humanity and to reenter the world of civilians who viewed him with fear and suspicion. It is, at last, a story of redemption and hope.

Ishmael Beah came to the United States when he was seventeen and graduated from Oberlin College in 2004. He is a member of Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Division Advisory Committee and has spoken before the United Nations on several occasions. He lives in New York City.

Advance praise for
A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER

***"A Long Way Gone is one of the most important war stories of our generation.* The arming of children is among the greatest evils of the modern world, and yet we know so little about it because the children themselves are swallowed up by the very wars they are forced to wage. **Ishmael Beah has not only emerged intact from this chaos, he has become one of its most eloquent chroniclers. We ignore his message at our peril.**"**

—Sebastian Junger, author of *A Death in Belmont* and *The Perfect Storm*

"This is a beautifully written book. Ishmael Beah describes the unthinkable in calm, unforgettable language; his memoir is an important testament to the children elsewhere who continue to be conscripted into armies and militias."

—Steve Coll, author of *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction

***"A Long Way Gone is a wrenching, beautiful, and mesmerizing tale.* Beah's amazing saga provides a haunting lesson about how gentle folks can be capable of great brutalities as well as goodness and courage. **It will leave you breathless.**"**

—Walter Isaacson, author of *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*

An Alternate Selection of Book-of-the-Month Club, History Book Club, Military Book Club,
and Quality Paperback Book Club.

A Borders Original Voices Choice

A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER

by Ishmael Beah

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Ishmael Beah Book Tour

New York	February 15	UNICEF House
New York	February 16	Starbucks
Seattle	February 20	Starbucks
Portland	February 22	Starbucks Powell's Bookstore
San Francisco	February 23	Cody's Books
	February 24	Starbucks
	February 25	Book Passage
Denver	February 26	Denver Press Club Tattered Cover Books
Chicago	February 27	Starbucks Borders
Ann Arbor	February 28	Starbucks Borders
Cleveland	March 1	Starbucks Joseph-Beth Booksellers
New York	March 5	Half King Reading Series
Dallas	March 6	Starbucks
Philadelphia	March 8	Free Library of Philadelphia Starbucks
Boston	March 13	Starbucks Harvard Bookstore
Washington DC	March 19	Starbucks Politics and Prose
Ft. Lauderdale	March 22-24	Literary Feast Festival
New York	March 27	Barnes and Noble

Seattle	April 2 April 3	University Bookstore Elliot Bay Bookstore
San Francisco	April 4	Commonwealth Club San Francisco JCC
Los Angeles	April 5	Los Angeles Public Library
New Haven	April 10	New Haven Free Library