

(continued from front flap)

legs; and peacebuilding is happening from the ground up. Harrowing, hopeful, humorous, and deeply moving—this is not only Agnes’s memoir: It is also her testimony to a nation’s descent into the horrors of civil war, and its subsequent rise out of the ashes.



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**AGNES FALLAH KAMARA-UMUNNA** was born in Liberia, where she hosted the radio program *Straight from the Heart* and was a statement taker for the Liberia Truth & Reconciliation Commission. She lives in New York City, where she takes oral statements from Liberians now living in this country. **EMILY HOLLAND** is an in-house producer and reporter for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), has contributed to *Jane* magazine, and *The Princeton Alumni Weekly*, and writes a “Dispatches from a Humanitarian Journalist” column for Dave Eggers’s online publication *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*.

Jacket design by Phil Rose  
 Jacket illustration © R. Willier/ArtParts  
 3/11  
**HYPERION**  
 www.HyperionBooks.com  
 Also available as a Hyperion eBook

Printed in USA © 2011 Hyperion

“We must know each other’s stories to exist in each other’s eyes. In *And Still Peace Did Not Come*, Agnes Umunna brings us the stories of child soldiers, brave women, the despair and new hope of Liberia, and her own personal journey. This book is a gift. Accept it.”

—Gloria Steinem, writer, feminist organizer

“Agnes Umunna has captured so much in this compelling book. I can hear the voices of the boy soldiers, I can hear the cries of the women and children whose lives have been ravaged by a senseless war, and I can feel and see how one exceptional spirit can make such an enormous difference, even under the worst of circumstances.”

—Abigail Disney, series producer, *Women, War & Peace*, THIRTEEN/WNET.ORG

“*And Still Peace Did Not Come* is a compelling look at the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation process following the conflict in war-torn Liberia. This book should serve as a primer for why any society that has gone through the trauma of war needs a process of reconciliation for its citizens. This includes both victims and perpetrators, who are sometimes one and the same, in order for the society to be able to heal and move forward.”

—Paul Rusesabagina, author of *An Ordinary Man* and real-life hero of Hotel Rwanda

“A compelling journey through the horrors of the Liberian civil war and the lives of so many children who were on the front lines of this national nightmare. Despite this, the book offers equal measure of humanity and decency and gives us hope that there can be recovery. A highly recommended book for anyone interested in the human impact of war and the struggle to survive.”

—Tom Crick, associate director, Conflict Resolution Center, The Carter Center

ISBN 978-1-4013-2357-8



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AND STILL PEACE DID NOT COME

A MEMOIR OF RECONCILIATION



AGNES FALLAH KAMARA-UMUNNA AND EMILY HOLLAND



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A MEMOIR OF RECONCILIATION

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 —GLORIA STEINEM

AGNES FALLAH KAMARA-UMUNNA AND EMILY HOLLAND

In 1990, when bullets hit Agnes Kamara-Umunna’s home in Monrovia, Liberia, she and her father hastily piled whatever they could carry into their car and drove toward the border, along with thousands of others. An army of children was approaching, under the leadership of Charles Taylor. It seemed like the end of the world.

Slowly, they made their way to the safety of Sierra Leone. They were the lucky ones.

After years of exile, with the fighting seemingly over, Agnes returned to Liberia—a country now devastated by years of civil war. Families have been torn apart, villages destroyed, and it seems as though no one has been spared. Reeling, and unsure of what to do in this place so different from the home of her memories, Agnes accepted a job at the local UN-run radio station. Their mission is peace and their method is reconciliation through understanding. Soon, she came up with a daring plan: Find the former child soldiers, and record their stories. And so Agnes, then a 43-year-old single mother of four, headed out to the ghettos of Monrovia and befriended these lost boys and girls, drinking Club Beer and smoking Dunhill cigarettes with them. One by one, they spoke on her program, *Straight from the Heart*, and slowly, it seemed like reconciliation and forgiveness might be possible.

From Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa’s first female president, to Butt Naked, a warlord whose horrific story is as unforgettable as his nickname—everyone has a story to tell. Victims and perpetrators. Boys and girls, mothers and fathers. Agnes comforts rape survivors, elicits testimonials from warlords, and is targeted with death threats—all live on the air.

*And Still Peace Did Not Come* is set in a place where monkeys, not raccoons, are the scourge of homeowners; the trees have roots like elephant

(continued on back flap)