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Eclipsed



Synopsis

• • [Eclipsed is] a surprisingly vivacious portrait of helplessness, of the entirely human impulse to adapt, to get by even when there's little hope life will get better. • "Washington Post • Eclipsed depicts the harsh realities of women's lives in a strife-torn African country with both a clear eye and a palpable empathy. • "New York Times Four women in Liberia struggle to survive conditions on a rebel army base. Held as the concubines of a warlord, each • wife • must find her own means of coping amidst a situation that appears hopeless. With frail, fractured identities born from an ongoing, senseless civil war, the women build their own contained world to guard against the chaos outside. This enthralling work from award-winning playwright and actress Gurira demonstrates the human capacity to endure, even in the most desolate of circumstances. Danai Gurira's other plays include Familiar and In the Continuum, written for World AIDS Day in December 2011, which she co-wrote and co-starred in with Nikkole Salter. For In the Continuum, she was awarded an Obie Award, Outer Critics' Circle Award, and a Helen Hayes Award for her performance. She received a Whiting Writer's Award in 2012. She is best known for her role as Michonne in the hit television series, The Walking Dead.

Book Information

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Theatre Communications Group (November 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1559365277

ISBN-13: 978-1559365277

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.3 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

I read it out loud to myself, to see how true the words and grammar were. I think she has most of the words true to ear. The grammar is harder, and written more with American English rules than Liberian rules. Reading it aloud helped me change what I needed to make it real. The play itself is

wonderful. Written about a warlord's "wives" during the horrific time of Liberian civil war, she's able to come from several angles, and tell a great story.

This Tony-nominated play very effectively illustrates a society in total war through the rarely seen lens of women -- those resigned to their fate, using it to their advantage, or becoming warriors themselves. Gurira writes in Liberian patois, which makes the reading experience closer to the theater experience than many scripts on the page.

Obviously this is a very important play. Gurira spent time in Africa researching the play and she writes very touchingly about the women who are caught up as sexual objects in a painful civil war. The play reads as well as it plays.

I first read about this play due to the casting of Lupita Nyong'o on off-Broadway. I had wanted to see it when I was in NYC but missed it. It's now on Broadway and I envy anyone who gets to hear the beautiful words of actress/playwright Danai Gurira. Gurira pulls off a rare feat - shedding light on a VERY important issue (the continued rape of women during war and the trauma that these women suffer at the hands of everyone involved) without ever being didactic, obvious or heavy-handed. Her use of multiple characters to represent the varying degrees of how these women are affected is classic storytelling. Her characters are all multi-dimensional (and heartbreaking). You will grow to not only love the women, but yearn to protect them. Gurira obviously cares about this issue and she has done her part in giving these women a voice. Now we have all collectively have to do ours to stop the rape of women during war.

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