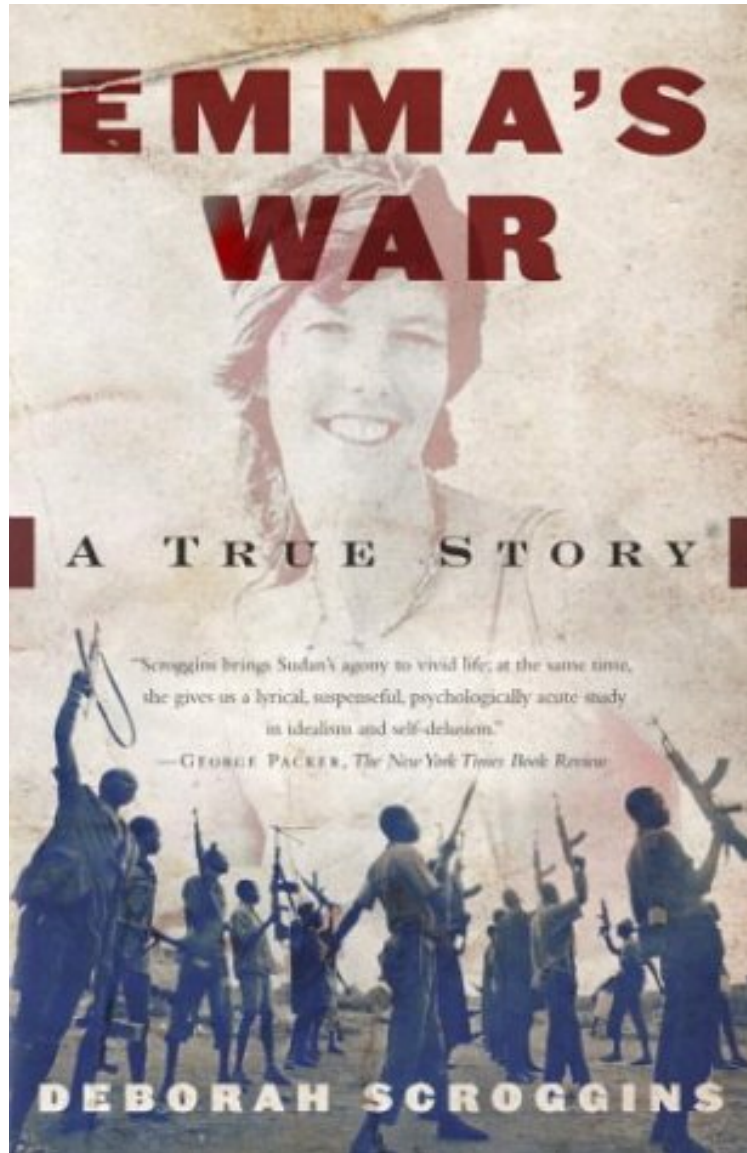


[Ebook pdf] Emma's War: A True Story

Emma's War: A True Story

Deborah Scroggins

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#535028 in Books Deborah Scroggins 2004-02-10 2004-02-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.10 x 5.20l, .90 #File Name: 0375703772416 pagesDeborah ScrogginsHistoryAfrica | File size: 19.Mb

Deborah Scroggins : Emma's War: A True Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Emma's War: A True Story:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Would more seriousness lead to a better outcome? I think notBy PracAdemicDeborah Scroggins wades into the complexities of Sudanese politics and armed strife and makes them digestible through her own personal story and that of Emma, a young British women who is deeply attracted to Africa

and African men. It should be required reading for any Westerner who embraces a cause (Darfur, Palestine, the Arab Spring, etc.) to get an understanding of how very little we often understand and how our presence distorts and/or feeds into decades old conflicts. For the most part, Scroggins is quite clear sighted, but gets a bit muddled in her critique of the international aid machine. On the one hand, she criticizes it for lack of long term commitment and seriousness, but on the other finds fault with almost everything it does...so would doing wrong stuff for longer, with more seriousness lead to a better outcome? I think not. Emma's husband, Riek Machar, continues to be a major player in the ongoing conflict in South Sudan - going on for three decades now - along with John Garang, his main rival. For them, civil war isn't something to be resolved; it is what fuels their power.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An example of "what not to do" while working in development

By AbigailI work in international development, and this book is basically a handbook of how not to behave while working abroad in an aid or NGO environment. I don't want to be too hard on poor Emma, since she passed away some years ago, but I was just stunned at some of the things she's said to have done. I've known some people who treated international development work as a sort of vacation filled with wild times, but never anything on her level! The author knew Emma, perhaps not on a best-friend level, but they seem to have had a professional relationship, which adds to the quality of the narrative. The author does not just tell Emma's story, but sets the book up as a sort of recounting of the travel and research she did to put the book together. I didn't like that at first, but the conversational style was pleasant and it grew on me. You really get to know the places Emma lived, for instance, because the author describes going there, and the interviews seem more personal when placed in the frame of the author's research. Awesome book, would recommend to anyone.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Impossible to put down!

By Firefly888One of the best written book I have ever read about Africa -- it really captures the mood and the challenges. This book provides both a history of the Sudan and surrounding areas, as well as an interesting story of a young Englishwoman, initially involved in humanitarian aid, who became involved with and married an African warlord. A remarkable story and one that richly increases one's understanding of the complications of providing assistance in Africa. I spent several months in Zaire/Congo right out of college and I finally understand the situation better. A number of my friends have been on missions in Africa. We cannot just stand back; yet, we must be aware of the effects of what we do and how we do it. Excellent account! Kudos to Deborah Scroggins for trying to make sense of it all.

Tall, striking, and adventurous to a fault, young British relief worker Emma McCune came to Sudan determined to make a difference in a country decimated by the longest-running civil war in Africa. She became a near legend in the bullet-scarred, famine-ridden country, but her eventual marriage to a rebel warlord made international headlines and spelled disastrous consequences for her ideals. Enriched by Deborah Scroggins's firsthand experience as an award-winning journalist in Sudan, this unforgettable account of Emma McCune's tragically short life also provides an up-close look at the volatile politics in the region. It's a world where international aid fuels armies as well as the starving population, and where the northern-based Islamic government with ties to Osama bin Laden is locked in a war with the Christian and pagan south over religion, oil and slaves. Tying together these vastly disparate forces as well as Emma's own role in the problems of the region, *Emma's War* is at once a disturbing love story and a fascinating exploration of the moral quandaries behind humanitarian aid.

From *The New Yorker*

In 1991, in the middle of a refugee crisis in southern Sudan, a twenty-seven-year-old British aid worker named Emma McCune scandalized the relief community by marrying a local guerrilla leader; the author describes Emma's brief career as a "First Lady-in-Waiting" as "the kind of surreal sideshow that often accompanies disasters." Formerly a champion of children's rights, Emma couldn't stop her husband from holding hundreds of adolescent boys in a squalid camp. Although she embraced the hardships of African life (bouts of malaria, water teeming with bilharzia), she was well-fed by local standards, eating fish that her husband's soldiers had stolen from a weaker, starving tribe. Meanwhile, Emma's fellow-expatriates grew less enchanted with her the more "African" she became sick and constantly in need. Scroggins, a veteran reporter on Sudan, uses Emma's story to examine the failure of Western idealism in Africa. Emma turned out to be an incidental character: she died in 1993, in a traffic accident in Nairobi; the fighting continues.

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Scroggins brings Sudan's agony to vivid life; at the same time, she gives us a lyrical, suspenseful, psychologically acute study in idealism and self-delusion. George Packer, *The New York Times Book* "Breathtaking and beautifully written. . . . Deborah Scroggins weaves the greater issues of Sudan around [Emma] McCune's idealism. USA Today Brilliantly penetrating. . . . In [Emma McCune] Scroggins has found a feckless, captivating subject, as insufferable as the white man's insatiable need for redemption in Africa. Scroggins undoes every illusion about aid, hunger and rebellion. Washington Post A wonderful, challenging book. . . . One of the best that I have ever read on the difficult relationship between the developed world and the Third World. William Shawcross, *Sunday Times* (London)

From the *Inside Flap*

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