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Eclipsed (Oberon Modern Plays)



Synopsis

It's best to work with the system, and right now "the system is war. 2003, civil war is raging in Liberia. At a rebel army base four young women are doing their best to survive the conditions of the war. Yet sometimes, the greatest threat comes not from the enemy's guns, but from the brutality of those on your own side. With the arrival of a new girl, who can read, and an old one, who can kill, how might this transform the future of this hard-bitten sisterhood?

Book Information

File Size: 798 KB

Print Length: 88 pages

Publisher: Oberon Books (April 24, 2015)

Publication Date: April 24, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00WMHFNQK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #235,572 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #90

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > African #484 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Theater #777 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Drama & Plays

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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