

Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel

By Ishmael Beah

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Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel By Ishmael Beah

A haunting, beautiful first novel by the bestselling author of *A Long Way Gone*

When Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone* was published in 2007, it soared to the top of bestseller lists, becoming an instant classic: a harrowing account of Sierra Leone's civil war and the fate of child soldiers that "everyone in the world should read" (*The Washington Post*). Now Beah, whom Dave Eggers has called "arguably the most read African writer in contemporary literature," has returned with his first novel, an affecting, tender parable about postwar life in Sierra Leone.

At the center of *Radiance of Tomorrow* are Benjamin and Bockarie, two longtime friends who return to their hometown, Imperi, after the civil war. The village is in ruins, the ground covered in bones. As more villagers begin to come back, Benjamin and Bockarie try to forge a new community by taking up their former posts as teachers, but they're beset by obstacles: a scarcity of food; a rash of murders, thievery, rape, and retaliation; and the depredations of a foreign mining company intent on sullyng the town's water supply and blocking its paths with electric wires. As Benjamin and Bockarie search for a way to restore order, they're forced to reckon with the uncertainty of their past and future alike. With the gentle lyricism of a dream and the moral clarity of a fable, *Radiance of Tomorrow* is a powerful novel about preserving what means the most to us, even in uncertain times.

Named one of the *Christian Science Monitor's* best fiction books of 2014

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, January 2014: Ishmael Beah's 2007 memoir *A Long Way Gone* described Beah's own experiences as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. In *Radiance of Tomorrow*, his first novel, he examines what happens when the survivors of war try to return home. At first the refugees arrive like a trickle to their hometown, straggling into a place populated only by bones. Former enemies learn to live together, a school is established, and they begin to rebuild their village and their lives. But the world has changed since they were last there--the clash between tradition and the encroaching world is like a new war, particularly when a mining company moves into town. This novel hits several superlative notes: in the details that Beah chooses to share, in the characters he uses to tell the story, and in the universality of his tale. It is a memorable and emotionally resonant first novel, one that may mark the start of a major new novelist. --*Chris Schlupe*

From [Booklist](#)

In his best-selling *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (2007), Beah wrote of his traumatic experience as victim and perpetrator in Sierra Leone's civil war. Now he works with Human Rights Watch and UNICEF in New York, and in this searing first novel, he tells of a young immigrant returning with his family to his native village seven years after the recent civil war. He finds both hope and horror, the latter driven by the overwhelming internal corruption, the former by the resilience of the people he encounters. He sees skulls and chopped hands, the remains of massacre. But there is the wonder of clean drinking water. A foreign company's diamond mining, supported by the government, is leaving the village people displaced, houses shattered, the air thick with pollution, ancient burial grounds destroyed. A parent must see her child go to bed hungry, night after night. How much will people do for jobs to feed their families? The power of the story is in the close-up, heartbreaking detail of the struggle for survival, the cruelty, and also the kindness. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"Beah has a resilient spirit and a lyrical style all his own. Even as a multitude of wearying failures mounts, his characters retain their hopefulness in a way that's challenging and inspiring." ?*Ron Charles, The Washington Post*

"Written with the moral urgency of a parable and the searing precision of a firsthand account . . . There is an allegorical richness to Beah's storytelling and a remarkable humanity to his characters. We see tragedy arriving not through the big wallops of war, but rather in corrosive increments." ?*Sara Corbett, The New York Times Book Review*

"A formidable and memorable novel--a story of resilience and survival, and, ultimately, rebirth." ?*Edwidge Danticat, Publishers Weekly*

"UNICEF Ambassador Beah writes lyrically and passionately about ugly realities as well as about the beauty and dignity of traditional ways." ?*Kirkus Reviews (starred review)*

"In 2007, Beah woke us from our slumbers with *A Long Way Gone* . . . Here, in his first novel . . . our heroes (like Beah himself) stay radiant to the end." ?*Library Journal*

"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 on A Long Way Gone*

“A breathtaking and unselfpitying account of how a gentle spirit survives a childhood from which all innocence has suddenly been sucked out. It's a truly riveting memoir.” ?*Time on A Long Way Gone*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Aaron Mullen:

Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Lola Taylor:

Don't be worry if you are afraid that this book can filled the space in your house, you can have it in e-book technique, more simple and reachable. This specific Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel can give you a lot of good friends because by you looking at this one book you have point that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This specific book can be one of one step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't learn, by knowing more than other make you to be great individuals. So , why hesitate? Let's have Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel.

Michael Becker:

As a pupil exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or make summary for some book, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's spirit or real their pastime. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that examining is not important, boring and can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Radiance of Tomorrow: A Novel can make you experience more interested to read.

Milan Allen:

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