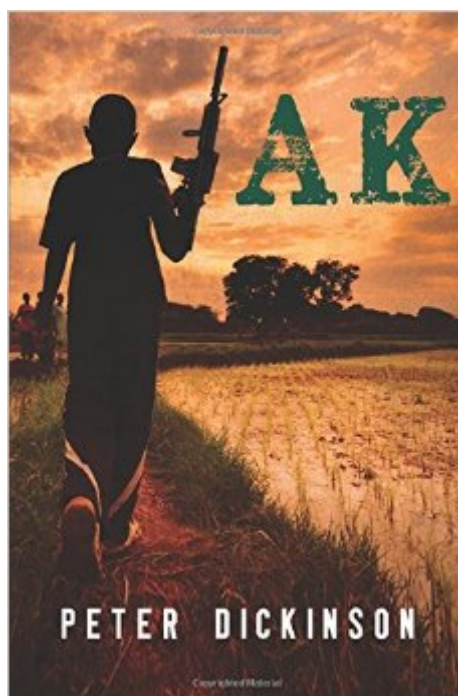


The book was found

AK



Synopsis

A war behind him, a child soldier tries to learn the ways of peace Paul remembers nothing from before the conflict. Twelve years old, he is not a child. He is a warrior-one of a handful of elite commandos who live only to fight the corrupt government of Nagala. He has no family but the boys who fight beside him, and he owns nothing but his AK-47 rifle. This is the only life he has ever known, and it is one he understands-right until the day the standoff ends and his life changes forever. Paul buries his AK and heads north to join a school and attempt to live life as just another child. But at night, the battlefield consumes his dreams. When a rogue faction stages a coup in the capital and Paul's adoptive father is put in prison, the boy turns into a warrior once more. It is too late for him to have a childhood, but Paul will do whatever it takes to guarantee himself a future. This ebook features an illustrated personal history of Peter Dickinson including rare images from the author's collection.

Book Information

Paperback: 204 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media Teen & Tween; Reprint edition (May 26, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1504014898

ISBN-13: 978-1504014892

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,991,364 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Historical Fiction > Africa](#) #98 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical](#)

[Fiction > Africa](#) #625 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military](#)

Age Range: 12 - 16 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

Customer Reviews

AK is truly a book worth reading; it has action, adventure, drama, and friendship in it. With never-ending suspense around the corner, its hard to stop reading this book until you've finished it! With historical fiction embedded in the pages, you'll find it hard to believe that this is history!AK happens to center on a boy of 12 named Paul Kagomi. He is an orphen in the civil war of Nagala, where the NLA (Nagala Liberation Army) fostered and cared for him. Paul was schooled in violence,

and has put his trust onto his little AK to protect him. With an overseer named Michael Kagomi, Paul and his fellow Warriors help liberate Nagala piece by piece. Then it happened. Just as easily as the war had begun, it ended. Now Paul can have a real family with his foster father: Michael. But in the midst of the delicate peace, Michael is kidnapped and taken to a concentration camp. Now Paul must free his father and destroy the corrupt African Government."My mother with the war. She was a witch, a terrible demon, eater of people, but she looked after me. It's not my fault that I loved her."-Paul Kagomi I kind of liked this story because of its adventure and the cover art, which I thought was cool (and a tad bit funny), but I really like the main character. It sort of reminded me of myself. In a way, Paul and I are alike because we both want to prove to others that we aren't just children. We are the future, the next generation. Anyways, AK is always a thriller, a book that gets you on the edge of your seat then makes you want to come back for more.

Very glad to be able to get hold of this book finally -- another extraordinary work from one of the very finest writers for young adults. Dickinson has a special, intimate sense of the African landscape and people, having been born and raised to school age there (I also recommend his prehistoric African narrative "The Kin," a rare masterpiece), and his infallible gift for finding the heart of the individual human in the big historical issues is in full force here. This is a great book for middle school reading and discussion -- this narrative of loyalty and loss surrounding one of the world's thousands of child soldiers also features a pair of alternative endings that in lesser hands would have been didactic and even preachy, but here makes a rich source for classroom debate, and above all tells the truth with no fuss or artifice: who can know how the tale will end, or whether it ever will? Just a ripping good story with a heart the size of the beautiful, terrifying world that made it.

Dickinson's novel of coming of age in the midst of civil war is far more than an adventure novel for teenagers. This is a very sensitive appraisal of the emotional costs of conflict that are all too real a part of growing up in many parts of the world.

What is unique about this novel is the portrayal of life on the African continent in one of these unstable countries. Governments that are here today are gone tomorrow, and adults reading this book will find it educational more so than Young Adults because of this element. However, it is an excellent tale for Young Adults in terms of action and adventure for it places a young boy into very adult minded situations. Books that force their adolescent main characters into adult situations are always popular, and this one is no different. It is not surprising that this novel won an award. It

conjured up images for the reader of *Lord of the Flies*, and other similar novels. It is an excellent addition to any YA section.

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