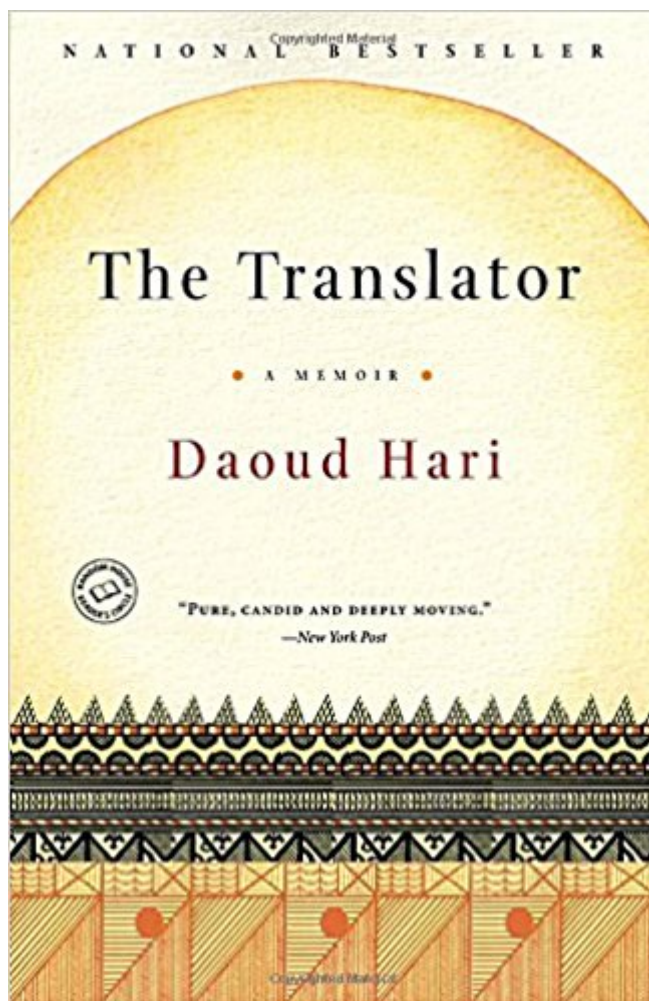


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# The Translator: A Memoir



## Synopsis

The young life of Daoud Hari—his friends call him David—has been one of bravery and mesmerizing adventure. The Translator is a suspenseful, harrowing, and deeply moving memoir of how one person has made a difference in the world, an on-the-ground account of one of the biggest stories of our time: the brutal genocide under way in Darfur. In 2003, Daoud Hari, a Zaghawa tribesman, was among the hundreds of thousands of villagers attacked and driven from their homes by Sudanese-government-backed militia groups. Though Hari's village was burned to the ground, his family decimated and dispersed, he himself escaped, eventually finding safety across the border. With his high school knowledge of languages, Hari offered his services as a translator and guide. In doing so, however, he had to return to the heart of darkness—and he has risked his life again and again to help ensure that the story of his people is told while there is still time to save them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. "Unique," a word avoided by most journalists, is just the first to describe this heart-stopping memoir, written by a native Darfuri translator who, after escaping the massacre of his village by the genocidal Janjaweed, returned to work with reporters and UN investigators in the riskiest of situations. Taking readers far from their comfort zones, Hari charts the horrific landscape of genocide in the stories of refugee camp survivors: "It is interesting how many ways there are for people to be hurt and killed, and for villages to be terrorized and burned... I would say that these ways to die and suffer are unspeakable, and yet they were spoken: we interviewed 1,134 human

beings over the next weeks." Danger is rampant, especially at border crossings, and the effect on outsiders is profound: "Some of the BBC people had to return to Chad, where they were in a medical clinic for three days to recover from what they saw, and smelled, and learned." Homey facts about the loyalty of camels, the pecking order in villages and vast family networks bring respite from more dire tales, including Hari's long, multi-site imprisonment with a U.S. journalist and their Chadian driver. The captives' endurance through uncertainty and torture is unbelievable, and their eventual rescue reads like James Bond by way of boldface politicians like recent presidential contender Bill Richardson. Throughout, Hari demonstrates almost incomprehensible decency; those with the courage to join Hari's odyssey may find this a life-changing read. A helpful appendix provides a primer on the Darfur situation. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Daoud, a Zaghawa tribesman in northern Darfur, fled his village, which was under attack by Sudanese militiamen, in 2003. His brother was killed and his family driven into exile across Sudan. Lamenting the demise of old traditions that called for the settlement of disputes among ethnic groups with peaceable dinners in one another's homes, Daoud fought back in his efforts as a translator to help document the carnage in his native land. In this first-person account, Daoud recalls imprisonment in Egypt, suffering in refugee camps, and efforts by ordinary Sudanese to hold onto families and hope in the face of genocide. Daoud worked as a translator for a British filmmaker and for award-winning reporters with the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and BBC. As a translator for UN investigators of genocide, Daoud listened to stories told slowly and quietly, feeling emotions the tellers dared not let themselves feel. Daoud writes beautifully and simply, offering insight, relaying the analysis of the reporters he worked with, and demonstrating the power of a man emotionally vested in the story being told. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A beautiful, clearly-written book by a man whose dedication to helping journalists makes my mind reel. Truly amazing. I read recently the author is driving a cab in the US. That is a crime, because clearly he has incredible talent and more stories to tell.

This book of murders begins with: "I know most people want others to have good lives and ... will do what they can to steer the world back toward kindness." Daoud Hari writes of small birds falling dead

from his robes, "their hearts broken by this noise" of gunfire. He describes a woman newly hanging in a tree and a child alone waving at him from a killing field. He writes of Sudan atrocities, of cascading death in Darfur and of small blooms of life surviving. To have survived at all is a surprise. To have surprised with dignity and hope is miraculous. The Translator tells of cruelty, tells it again and again in clear, simple language. Just as there is unfathomable madness infecting the killers in this story, there is nearly equal bewilderment at the grace of this humble soul able to tell it. It will hurt you to read it. And the ache will be greater still after reading the Appendix that reprints the universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948. Mr. Hari's book tells of endless violations of virtually all the 30 Articles of the Declaration in the last ten years. I'm sad I read The Translator but thankful, as well. It is a painfully moving book.

Written for a very general public, in a simple but moving style. Even for those who are relatively well-read regarding Darfur, there are insights - and ghastly details - which don't make it into the press. Very interesting to read how an individual who has lived through some of these horrors can assimilate them and nevertheless continue a sane life.

This was well a written and vivid description of the horrors of the genocide in Darfur. Thoughtful and intense with emotion. I finished it several days ago and still think of some of the horrors he described. There is one intensely gripping scene of a father and his little girl who runs to him only to be stabbed. She continues to cry out to him as she is dying. There is another touching scene where he talks to some of the boys holding him captive. It is good to think about their lack of choices in life (and many others we condemn point blank without realizing the horror they grow up in). He describes how, through words he starts to massage some of the humanity back into their soul. Very touching and a good reminder that kindness, education and opportunity would do more to end the horrors of this world than all the armies. It might be nice if we listened more to men like Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr instead of our eye for an eye mentality. Daoud is aboslutely amazing with the courage he shows not just shuttling journalists but staying when he could have left, knowing he would certainly face torture. Amazing.

A fast read, written simply. But don't be put off by that summary. This is a strong story and an insight into the Darfur tragedy. The author writes with clarity to the point he will sometimes give the western reader a definition of a word that we would not normally know. This was a fast read, partly because of the last third that is a harrowing experience by the author and two others. The author

faced death numerous times and was ready to face the reaper. The reader is glad he survived so this story could be told. Would give it six stars if they were available.

Daoud Hari is indeed a blessed man to have survived capture and imprisonment- risking his life to tell the world of the human tragedy called Darfur. This book speaks volumes of his profound courage and of the brave reporters and others who ventured right into the line of fire so that the world will know. The heartbreaking descriptions of the carnage is hard to read at times, but I am most haunted by the child sitting in the grass who stopped crying and waved goodbye as Daoud and the news crew had to run for their lives. This is one man's tale of survival on a tragic journey and his willingness to fight injustice. He is blessed because there are those who must survive to tell the world. We can each make a difference.

This book is amazing! I knew the situation in Darfur was bad, but this narrative makes it more real. Some of the things that have happened over there are worse than unforgivable. I wish I could go over there and stop the horror right now, but I'll have to settle for raising awareness and other "small" things I have the power to do. I highly recommend this book. You should read it, then write to your congressmen, urging them to push the government into doing something more to stop this nightmare. There are men out there who I would no longer consider human because of the atrocities they have committed. It's time for them to be stopped!

Unbelievable!!! Written with detail and feelings. Gives you a clear understanding of the tragedy called genocide. Definitely a must read.

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