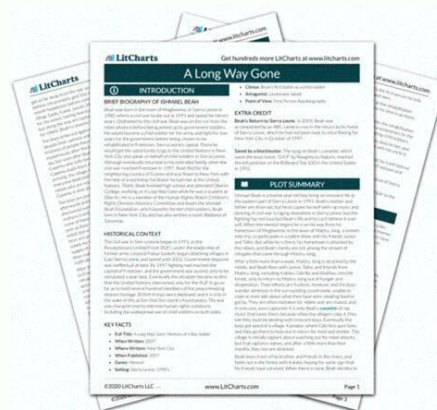


A long way gone book summary sparknotes

But by showing affection and appealing to the boys' interests, like Beah's love for rap music, the staff, like the nurse Esther, begin to help the boys cope with some of their trauma. Ongoing violence forces the boys to stay in Mattru Jong. wulusufe Beah lives in New York City and has also written a novel, *Radiance of Tomorrow*.

When the memoir begins he is on his way from his hometown of Mogbwemo to the town of Mattru Jong, a sixteen mile trip, to participate in a talent show with his friends Junior and Talloi. Although eventually returned to his extended family, when the civil war reached Freetown in 1997, Beah fled for the neighboring country of Guinea and was flown to New York with the help of a workshop facilitator he had met at the United Nations. The boys strike out again without much sense of purpose, but despite their sadness and their loss, are often buoyed by the kindness of people they encounter. The many charred corpses presumably include Junior and the rest of Ishmael's family. The seven boys journey toward the coast to get away from the fighting. Soon, the boys are taken into custody by government soldiers and transported to a town being used as a military base. jujjifezaceso When the rebels take control of Freeport and begin killing civilians, Ishmael flees the country. vomuyodu The village is initially vigilant about watching out for rebel attacks, but that vigilance wanes, and after a little more than four months, they too are attacked. Saved by a blockbuster. Once the boys arrive in Mattru Jong, however, they learn that rebel forces have overrun Mogbwemo. Their parents are separated. vajeranituru The boys are urged by their commanders to take revenge on the rebels for the deaths of their families and are given a steady supply of drugs to keep them distanced from the present. The civil war in Sierra Leone began in 1991, as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), under the leadership of former army corporal Foday Sankoh, began attacking villages in East Sierra Leone, and lasted until 2002. There, Beah finished high school and attended Oberlin College, working on *A Long Way Gone* while he was a student at Oberlin. He promptly gets lost in the forest and wanders for a month hopelessly before coming upon a new group of boys, Alhaji, Saidu, Kanei, Jumah, Musa and Moriba. The boys and a friend are part of a rap and dance group entered a talent show in Mattru Jong, a day's walk away. When there is none, Beah decides to get as far away from the war as possible, and leaves Kaloko behind. Freetown becomes unsafe, as violent, in fact, as the front once was, and when Beah's uncle dies because he cannot get a doctor, Beah decides to flee to the nearby country of Guinea and from there to the United States, having talked to Laura Simms, who has promised that she has a place for him to stay in New York. Beah was born in the town of Mogbwemo, in Sierra Leone in 1980, where a civil war broke out in 1991 and lasted for eleven years. Ishmael Beah is a twelve year old boy living an innocent life in the eastern part of Sierra Leone in 1993. Beah's mother and father are divorced, but he occupies himself with rap music and dancing.

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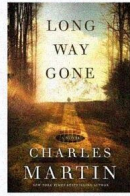


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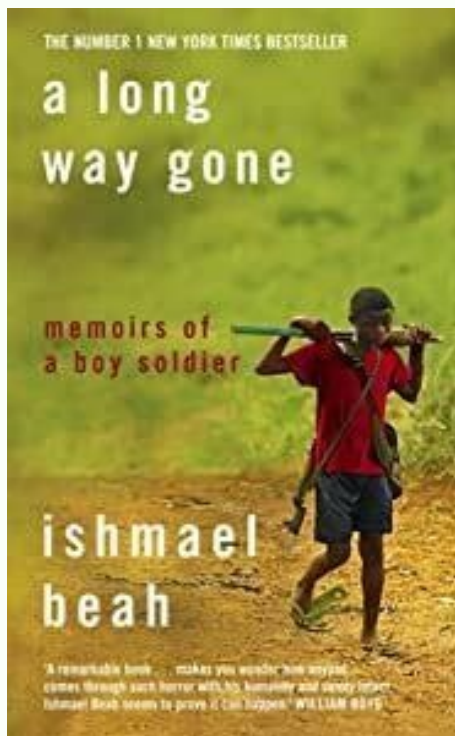


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After 7 months, Beah moves in his uncle, who lives in the capital city of Freetown, and even goes to New York City to speak at the United Nations on the behalf of child soldiers in Sierra Leone. He will eventually make his way back to New York, where the storyteller will become his new mother. Beah's cassette again comes to the rescue. When rebels threaten that town, too, the boys become child soldiers. Their efforts are fruitless, however, and the boys wander aimlessly in the surrounding countryside, unable to cope or even talk about what they have seen, stealing food to get by. Eventually the situation became so dire that the United Nations intervened, only for the RUF to go so far as to hold several hundred members of the peace-keeping mission hostage. They are often mistaken for rebels and are chased, and in one case, even captured. x Welcome to the LitCharts study guide on Ishmael Beah's A Long Way Gone. The boys head for the ocean, having heard of a town called Yele which is safe, but along the way are captured by villagers who mistake them for rebels. The boys begin this process at an institution in Freeport, Sierra Leone's capital, where Ismael and the other boys struggle to adjust to their new life. There he would get the opportunity to go to the United Nations in New York City and speak on behalf of child soldiers in Sierra Leone.

The boys rush in to find everyone dead and the village on fire. After desperate wandering and a frightening encounter with rebels, the six boys arrive at a village where one of them has an aunt and uncle. Twelve-year-old Ishmael Beah and his brother Junior live in the small village of Mogbwemo with their stepmother. Leaving his remaining friend, he gets lost in a deep forest where he lives alone for a month. After this two-year period of horror ends, the unit commander turns over Ishmael and some of the other young soldiers to aid workers, who will attempt to reintegrate the boys into civilian life. The boys work in the fields, until the rebels attack that village, too. The town's inhabitants flee, including Ishmael and Junior, their friend, and the other three boys from the hip-hop group. He would become a child soldier for the army, and fight for two years for the government before being chosen to be rehabilitated in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital. Ishmael and one other boy become separated from the rest. Efforts to rehabilitate him and other boy soldiers are at first met with extreme violence from the boys. Did you know you can highlight text to take a note? After a little more than a week, Mattru Jong is attacked by the rebels, and Beah flees with Junior, Talloi, and friends from Mattru Jong, including Kaloko, Gibrilla and Khalilou, into the forest, only to return to Mattru Jong out of hunger and desperation. Government response was ineffectual at best.

The war was characterized by extreme human rights violations, including the widespread use of child soldiers on both sides. Gasemu leads them there, only to find that just as they are arriving, the village is being attacked. Eventually, he meets six other boys, some of whom he knew when he attended school in Mattru Jong. Eventually, however, the boys start to adapt. He is a member of the Human Rights Watch Children's Rights Division Advisory Committee and heads the Ishmael Beah Foundation, which benefits former child soldiers. When they learn that Ishmael's family and other people from the Mattru Jong area may be staying at a nearby village they go there, but they arrive just as a rebel massacre of the entire village has begun.

Eventually, the rebels, who rape and kill indiscriminately, come to Mattru Jong. But Sierra Leone has not been rehabilitated, even if Beah has, and there is a violent overthrow of the government. The song on Beah's cassette, which saves the boys twice, "O.P.P." by Naughty by Nature, reached the 6th position on the Billboard Top 100 in the United States in 1992. Ishmael spends the next two years witnessing many horrible things as well as committing many horrible acts himself.

The boys are picked up by government soldiers soon afterwards and brought to Yele, where they think they have discovered some peace.