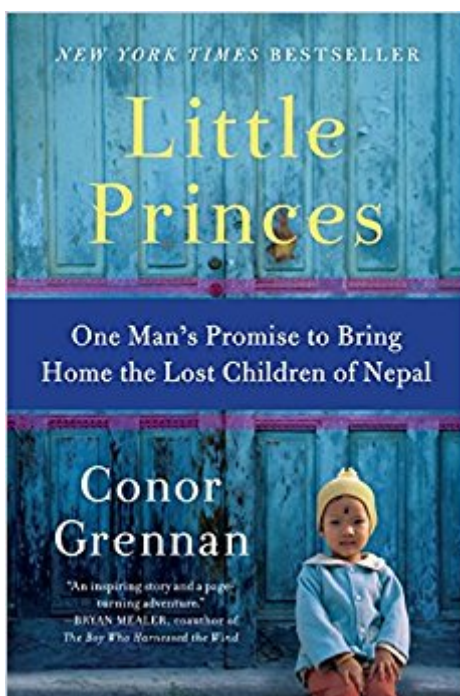


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# Little Princes: One Man's Promise To Bring Home The Lost Children Of Nepal



## Synopsis

“Funny, touching, tragic.” A remarkable tale of corruption, child trafficking and civil war in a far away land and one man’s extraordinary quest to reunite lost Nepalese children with their parents. Neil White, author of *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* *Little Princes* is the epic story of Conor Grennan’s battle to save the lost children of Nepal and how he found himself in the process. *Part Three Cups of Tea, part Into Thin Air*, Grennan’s remarkable memoir is at once gripping and inspirational, and it carries us deep into an exotic world that most readers know little about.

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## Customer Reviews

**Product Description** In search of adventure, 29-year-old Conor Grennan traded his day job for a year-long trip around the globe, a journey that began with a three-month stint volunteering at the Little Princes Children’s Home, an orphanage in war-torn Nepal. Conor was initially reluctant to volunteer, unsure whether he had the proper skill, or enough passion, to get involved in a developing country in the middle of a civil war. But he was soon overcome by the herd of rambunctious, resilient children who would challenge and reward him in a way that he had never imagined. When Conor learned the unthinkable truth about their situation, he was stunned: The children were not orphans at all. Child traffickers were promising families in remote villages to protect their children from the civil war for a huge fee by taking them to safety. They would then abandon the children far from home, in the chaos of Nepal’s capital,

Kathmandu. For Conor, what began as a footloose adventure becomes a commitment to reunite the children he had grown to love with their families, but this would be no small task. He would risk his life on a journey through the legendary mountains of Nepal, facing the dangers of a bloody civil war and a debilitating injury. Waiting for Conor back in Kathmandu, and hopeful he would make it out before being trapped in by snow, was the woman who would eventually become his wife and share his life.

Little Princes is a true story of families and children, and what one person is capable of when faced with seemingly insurmountable odds. At turns tragic, joyful, and hilarious, Little Princes is a testament to the power of faith and the ability of love to carry us beyond our wildest expectations.

An Exclusive Essay by Conor Grennan

### How Taking Notes and Living without Indoor Plumbing Would Change My Life

When I was living in Nepal, I kept a notebook with me at all times. It was a small Nepali-made notebook—the brand name was Happy Days! or some such thing—and it made me smile every time I looked at it. I took it everywhere I went, and wrote in it often. The children constantly asked me what I was writing, and I would tell them I was recording our conversations. That was true, but it was more than that. I was also recording everything I found strange in my new home. Like the fact that the kids chewed on chicken bones until they were practically dust, or that one of the boys, Santosh, had a digital watch which he'd borrowed from a friend that, along with displaying the hour, flashed "I Love You!" once per second. There were times I was caught without my notebook, like in the middle of a soccer game when Dawa's shot—destined for just inside the invisible right post—was blocked by the broadside of a cow, and I had to try to recall from memory the captivating debate over the role of livestock in team sports, and whether or not the goal should count. (It didn't.) Then, when the children would go to bed at 8 p.m., I would bundle up in two or three fleeces, a hat, and woolen gloves I had cut the fingers out of; I'd pull out my notebook and I'd sit down to write my travel blog, copying everything I had put into the notebook over the course of the day into an old, ultra-light Dell I'd bought off eBay for about 200 dollars. It was pretty much useless except as a word processor, but it was the most precious thing I owned. Over the next three years, traveling the globe and living in Nepal, I would end up typing just over half-a-million words on that little workhorse—five times the length of Little Princes. It turned out that writing everything down in the moment was critical because the more time I spent in Nepal, the more normal these "strange" things became. It became normal to watch my blankets being made from scratch on the ground outside my house, to trade broken flip-flops for potatoes, and to use outhouses on a daily basis without thinking twice about it. (Did you hear that, people? Outhouses!) The funny thing is, with all that note-taking, I never

had any intention of writing a book about my time in Nepal. It honestly never occurred to me that it was a much of a story until someone else mentioned the idea to me. Once I started writing the book, however, I couldn't stop. I went back to my old notebooks and I was suddenly in Nepal again, hearing in my mind exactly how Hriteek had laughed, or Nishal had protested, or Raju had squealed as he'd run through the house, bare feet padding against the cold cement floors. Little Princes, the book, allowed me to revisit that wonderful, difficult, challenging, happy time of my life. I still get back to Nepal, of course, and I still see the children. But they change, they grow up. Writing Little Princes allowed me to visit the children as they were. And also, as the person I was.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Grennan, who once worked at the East West Institute in Prague, embarked on a round-the-world trip in 2006, starting with a stint volunteering for an orphanage six miles south of Kathmandu. The orphanage, called the Little Princes Children's Home, housed 18 children from the remote province of Humla, rescued from a notorious child trafficker who had bought the children from poor villagers terrified of the Maoist insurgents eager for new recruits; the parents hoped to keep their children safe, but the children often ended up as slaves. Grennan was stunned by the trauma endured by these children, who he grew to love over two months, and after completing his world tour, returned to the orphanage and vowed not only to locate seven Humla orphans who had vanished from a foster home, but also to find the parents of the children in the orphanage. This required starting up a nonprofit organization in America, Next Generation Nepal, raising funds, buying a house in Kathmandu for the children's home, and trekking into the mountains of Humla to locate the parents. Grennan's work is by turns self-pokingly humorous, exciting, and inspiring. (Feb.)

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My friends and I had to read this book for our English class, and it turned out to be a fun read. Our overall reaction to this book is that it was such an inspirational experience. This fun and humorous story was easy to understand and very informative. Any time I came upon what seemed to be a difficult word, Grennan instantly clarified right after. The author is great at descriptivism. I had an easy time placing myself in the story. He manages to describe the story through all senses. Going along with this story, we found wholesome values that truly got us attached to the characters. We even found ourselves reading ahead of the class. This book focused on the child trafficking in Nepal although Conner does not mention much about the Maoist Military. He does give you some

information about them, but I learned little on the civil war other than it was happening during his first visit to Nepal. There were a lot of great stories about the not-so-main characters of the story, who still hold a place in your heart. I have to admit, the beginning seemed a bit slow and the character was hard to like, but this book is so much more than the beginning. The book develops into a truly wholesome and dynamic story which I find myself bringing up with friends and family in discussions of growing as a person and having a heart for children in need. Love this book!

What a fantastic story! Conor's reading of his own story really enhances the diverse personalities and descriptions in the book. His narration makes the voices come alive. The book is written (and read) without excessive flourish, but with real heart. The tenacious spirit of the Nepalese people, especially the children, is well described and clearly highly respected by the author. He does well balancing information and narrative, with anecdotes ranging from heart wrenching to hilarious. Beginning as little more than an ill-conceived attempt to assuage his own "1st world guilt" (and earn a great story to pick up chicks) Conor's visit to Nepal soon becomes something very different. This story of how one average single American guy went from drinking beer in bars to trekking the Nepalese foothills to reunite orphans with their families could have read like a cable special on a women's channel. But this story, thankfully, does not. It is NOT a flowery attempt to guilt other Americans into sending money, or a liberal rant about how we should all be more sensitive to the plight of people in poorer countries. Conor tells the truths about the grim reality of child trafficking in Nepal with no drama, no bulls\*\*\* attempts to guilt the reader into feeling something. He simply describes the faces, situations, and reactions of very real children and their well-meaning parents who have been duped into giving them up, and would give anything to get them back. Conor also makes no attempt to hide his flaws and faults throughout his travels. In fact, he offers his mistakes up as cautionary tales. I learned a lot from his well meaning yet failed attempts at helping in the early part of the book. Conor is matter of fact about falling in love with the children, and how impossible it was for him NOT to get caught up in doing whatever he could to help them. The plight of the families in Nepal is obviously very complicated, and the social and psychological ramifications for all involved would be difficult to navigate for anyone. Conor neither takes credit nor makes apologies for his "Western" involvement. It is clear that, except for the initial few weeks of his volunteerism, he did not CHOOSE this cause, this cause chose HIM. He simply CARES, and will do whatever he can to help. And, since like many extremely poor countries, Nepal has very limited resources, I think it wonderful, both in the book and in the reality of his "Next Generation Nepal" non-profit, that he and those like him are standing up to help the families who

have been tricked into giving up what is most precious to them. Definitely worth the read!

Love this book. I was reading on my Kindle in 14 different air flights, while I was traveling in Asia last month. I could not put it down. It is a page turner. You will love this book too. One of the location of my visits is Kathmandu, Nepal. I quickly identified with the poverty, suffering and Little Princes described in this book. It is an amazing story. Congrats, Conor, you are best role model for a global citizen that truly cares and gives your 100% to help them.

The author's excessive egoism is possibly the strongest impression I have of this book. Yes, he seems to have done good things for kids in Nepal (and his book boastfully tells you about it), but he admittedly did most of it to impress others and get the girl. His selfishness extends so far as to have recklessly endangered the sherpas he hired to trek across mountain passes in search of the kids families, which made me mad as hell - he could have waited for daylight and made sure he had enough food and drink for his trekking party. Shame on him. I did not enjoy this book at all and would never recommend it to anyone.

This book begins when Conor Grennan was able to travel the world, but he decided to volunteer in Nepal at an orphanage named Little Princes. When Conor first arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal, he did not want to be there. He began to connect with the orphans, and he learned that most of the children had been trafficked. Even though Conor doubted himself, he decided to start his own non-profit organization, and he developed as many plans as he could to be able to protect the trafficked children. Conor raised enough money to open an orphanage he named Dhaulagiri. Conor wanted to help reunite the orphans with their families. My first reaction was that this was going to be boring; however, I really enjoyed the way Conor was able to express his humor through his writing. This book was able to bring the intensity of child trafficking, and it was eye opening to what one person can do. Conor did a great job of informing the reader of the current issues that were developing in Nepal. It was easy to follow because he keep the reader interested and made the reader anticipate the next obstacle he would face. The book also brought a real world problem and shinned a light on it, but at the same time making it humorous and funny. Conor takes you along with him every step of the way. The moments he shares with you keep you at the edge of your toes and always wondering what is going to happen next.

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