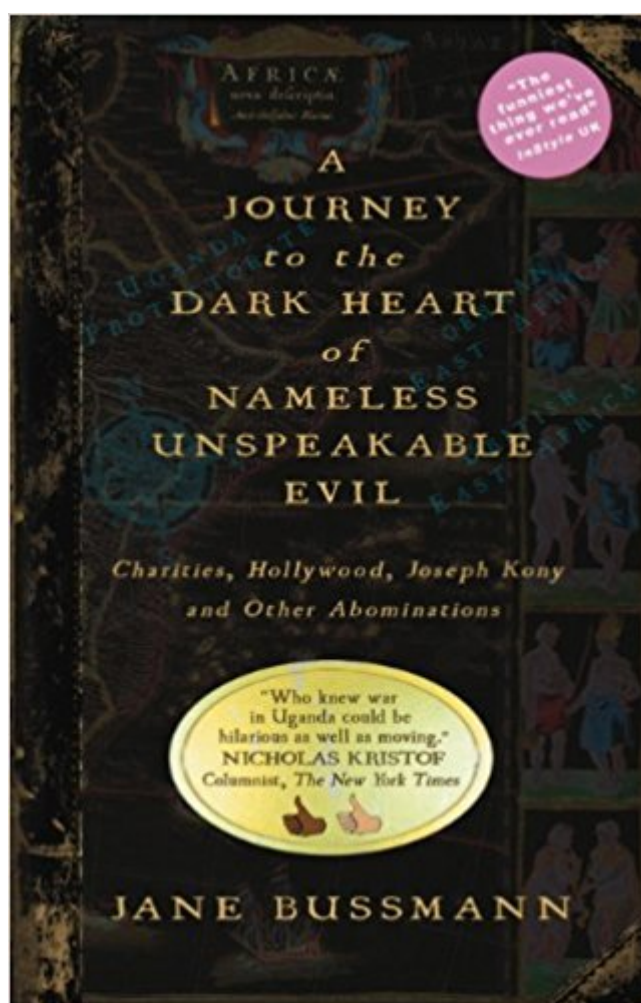


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A Journey To The Dark Heart Of Nameless Unspeakable Evil: Charities, Hollywood, Joseph Kony, And Other Abominations



Synopsis

From Publishers Weekly (starred review): In this uproariously funny memoir-meets-travelogue, British comedy writer Bussmann (*Worst Date Ever*) chronicles her transition from celebrity gossip columnist to foreign news correspondent, driven by a hilariously misguided crush on a peace activist. She takes readers into Los Angeles's "Golden Age of Stupid," where she tries desperately to fail out of her day job by inventing celebrity interviews entirely until a threatened lawsuit from Ashton Kutcher leads to major changes. After interviewing former White House director of African affairs John Prendergast, Bussmann is compelled by his charm and the Kony story to "scam [her] way to Africa," ultimately selling a piece to Britain's Sunday Times. Arriving in Kampala, Bussmann is greeted by an abstinence-promoting billboard paid for by U.S. governmental aid, and stories of imprisoned journalists, and fraudulent elections. As she begins to investigate, Bussmann discovers Ugandan military sabotaging peace talks and turning a blind eye to an attack on a girls' school, among other corruption. Bussmann's razor-sharp wit and unapologetic narcissism may seem incongruous with the grim subject matter, but the dark humor provides an anchor of sanity to author and reader alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Who knew war in Uganda could be hilarious as well as moving." Nicholas Kristof, columnist for the New York Times "So funny you almost feel guilty laughing." Reuters "Uproariously funny." Publishers Weekly "Jane Bussmann's blistering tale of life in Hollywood and near-death in Uganda is both horrifying and hilarious." St. Louis Post-Dispatch "This book will change your life. Must read

at all costs. (Four Stars)" Mirror "One of the funniest books I've read for a long while." Sunday Times Pick of the Week "Most sneakily subversive medium for a heretically important message I've seen. Inappropriately f*cking hilarious and absolutely gut-wrenching. Must-read." BOOK South Africa "Bussmann has invented a new genre--the agony/comedy. And it's very, very funny." The Lady "Marrying vociferous rage with humor. . . a marvelously maverick approach to the investigation of war crimes. (Four Stars)!" Marie Claire "Cannot be recommended too highly; full of foul-mouthed vigor, insightful, scathing, savagely funny and ultimately heartbreaking. Buy, beg, steal or borrow this hilarious, angry book--but read it." The Times South Africa "That rarest of things. . . a comedy that is truly funny." The Guardian "Angry and hilarious, this is a little classic." Standard Pick of the Year "Very funny. Jane's got a death wish." Matt Stone, South Park --Reviews

Jane Bussmann is a British comedy writer, performer and scriptwriter. She is also an unqualified foreign correspondent highly acclaimed by real foreign correspondents for her maverick take on Hollywood, war and white people. Jane has written for South Park and over fifty programs, including the legendary Daily Show antecedent Brass Eye, the most complained-about TV show in British history. She has performed the award-winning stage adaptation of her book to sell-out audiences from Mombasa to New York, even accidentally to the Lords Resistance Army's London wing. She has interviewed everyone from Britney Spears to war criminals for publications including the The Huffington Post, the Times of London, and Glamour.

I read about this book on Elaine Lui's gossip site, laineygossip.com. She's mentioned it a few times so I downloaded it to check it out. It did take me a while to get into it and get used to Jane's style of writing, but at some point along the way, I became totally hooked and obsessed and just had to keep reading this book. You know she makes it out alive obviously since she's writing the book, but I really like how she takes us on her journey of discovery, one realization and connection at a time. Jane travels to Uganda to impress a peace worker and just ends up in the craziest situations. Because she is so self-deprecating it actually makes it easier to read about the atrocities in Uganda, because you as the reader are not being preached at about how we should feel guilty for our Western lifestyle and how Jane is better than you - reading it, you can easily say to yourself that you are a better person than Jane, haha. But it's inspiring and eye-opening as well as funny. I very much enjoyed the read and I hope more people will take an interest in the atrocities around the world - not only that, but question how the media and various other groups and agencies are portraying these situations.

This was an an entertaining and somewhat unsettling book. I had a tough time getting used to the humorous tone in the parts of the book describing really terrible things, but I can understand it as a defense mechanism. After reading the book one comes away with a cynical attitude toward many of the governmental aid agencies operating in Central Africa. The local governments are apparently spectacularly corrupt, and Ms. Bussmann skewers them appropriately. She also has a self deprecating style that is appealing, but I think she doesn't give herself enough credit - she has a lot more nerve than I have

Read it first for adventure then re- read for information we all need to know. She' s done it, captured our attention to bring focus to a critical matter with humor and adventure.

great

started out to be a comedy but later became a really instructive story of what some parts of Africa are really like! How brave and gutsy Jane was---She is one heck of a girl! Pat

This book was very funny and well written. Totally worth the money and would recommend it to anyone looking for a good laugh.

This is the story of how a jaded, bitter British comedy/entertainment writer in Hollywood failed to sell her screenplays and ended up reporting on the barbaric Joseph Kony in Uganda. That seems like screenplay enough, but Bussmann decorates it with jaundiced observations, cultural (American and British) allusions, and plenty of sarcasm. And oh yes, it's massively funny. She accurately portrays the entertainment industry as the Golden Age of Stupid in Hollywood, governed by every breath from Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and Britney Spears. Where institutional memory is non existent and "you're a genius in Hollywood for borrowing ideas from before 1990". Her perspective is always jaded. She describes a hotel as "one of those mausoleum business hotels where the staff flirt in order to stave off suicide." She had my undivided attention. After the whirlwind, lacerating opening in Hollywood, I did not expect the book to have redeeming social value, a point, or a conclusion. But Bussmann sweeps readers along on a trip to Uganda, in total ignorance and for the wrong reasons. It goes from one disaster to another, and it changes her, visibly, mentally, and attitudinally. Jade becomes rage. Skillfully, Bussmann tones the sarcasm, the brand awareness and the superficiality

down to where it fits the horrendous reality of Uganda in the grip of kleptocracy. Cognitive dissonance gives way to revelations of truth. Her discoveries are our discoveries, her experiences our experiences, her education our education. As the corruption, cruelty and lies take over the story, she comes to her epiphany: "Finally, nothing was funny." The daily narcissistic lie of Hollywood is pondscum compared to the ocean of corruption that is Uganda. She comes out of it 1) alive, 2) with some recognition, and 3) with her sense of humor reconstituted. The endnotes are largely superfluous, but there is a glossary for navel-gazing Americans to get the British references. And that's funny too. This book turns out to be both humorous and worthwhile: a rare bird, from a perceptive, driven achiever. Which, ironically, is something she thought she'd never be. Makes it even better. David Wineberg

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