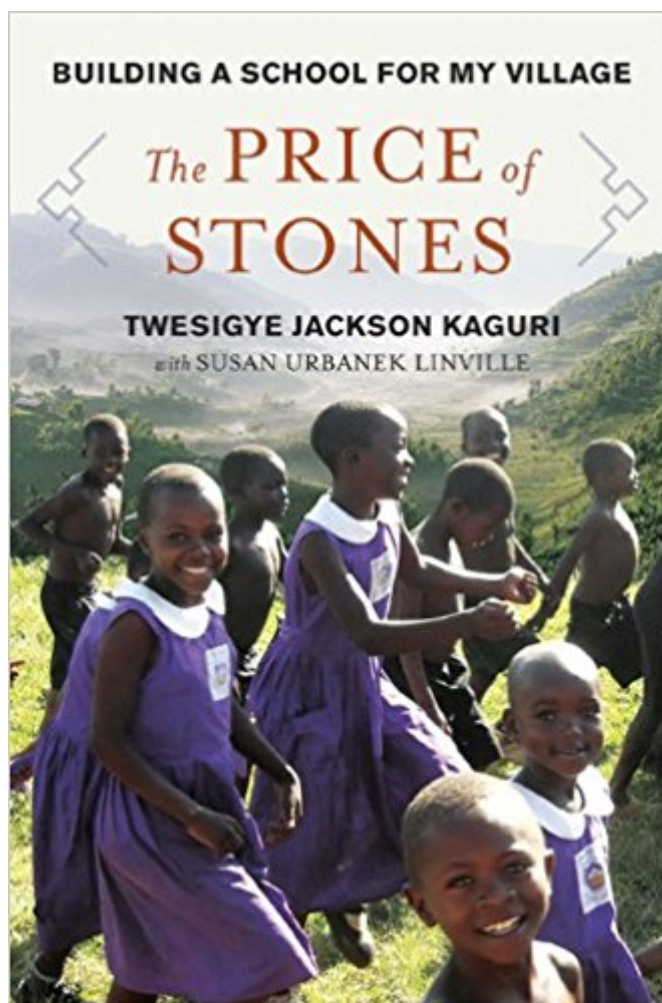


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# The Price Of Stones: Building A School For My Village



## Synopsis

The extraordinary story of one man's gift to orphaned children in need of hope. Can one person really make a difference in the world? Twesigye Jackson Kaguri defied many naysayers-and his own nagging doubts-and proved that, with a dream and incredible determination, he could change many lives. Growing up in rural Uganda, Kaguri overcame poverty to earn a degree from the national university and worked as a human rights advocate, eventually making his way to pursue studies at Columbia University. When he returned to his village in Uganda with his wife, they were overwhelmed by the plight of his village's many AIDS orphans and vowed to open the first tuition-free school in the district for these children. Faced with many daunting obstacles, including little money, skepticism among friends in both the U.S. and Uganda, corrupt school inspectors, and a lack of supplies, he doggedly built one classroom after another until they had an accredited primary school filled with students dreaming of becoming the future doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, and even presidents of Uganda. *The Price of Stones* is the stirring story behind the founding of the Nyaka AIDS Orphans School. Weaving together tales from his youth with the enormously inspiring account of the remarkable challenges and triumphs of the school, Kaguri shows how someone with a modest idea is capable of achieving monumental results. His story will captivate all readers of *Three Cups of Tea* and Tracy Kidder's *Strength in What Remains*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So many people die of AIDS in Uganda that at times bodies are stacked in city mortuaries like firewood. Moved by the plight of more than one million AIDS orphans in a nation with a population of

30 million, Kaguri, a human rights advocate returning home after studying at Columbia University, decided to build a school for children who had lost one or both parents to the syndrome. Kaguri and his American wife used their modest resources and contributions from friends and churches to open the two-classroom Nyaka AIDS Orphans School and initiate advocacy campaigns to counteract the superstitions that have stigmatized HIV/AIDS in Uganda. Anecdotes about the students, the author's family—his own brother and sister died from the disease—and his dealings with donors and corrupt officials, reveal Kaguri to be at once vulnerable and ferociously determined. Written in simple, straightforward style, the book is an affecting and accessible tribute to the difference one person can make in the world. (Jun.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Kaguri, born in Uganda in 1970, the year before Idi Amin's ascendance to power, studied human rights at the national university, enrolled in the Human Rights Advocacy Program at Columbia, and married an American doctoral student in 1998. It is on a visit back to his native village in 2001 that Kaguri and his wife witness firsthand the devastation to families caused by the AIDS epidemic, and the huge number of orphans. They pledge to build those orphans a school, and upon their return to the U.S., they garner funds from churches, Rotary clubs, private businesses, and grants. Remarkably, they open their school with one class of 60 orphans in January, 2003. Mirroring the work of Greg Mortenson (*Three Cups of Tea*, 2009), Kaguri gradually expands his goals, adding not only classrooms but also water and nutrition programs, community gardens, teachers' workshops, and eventually a second school in a neighboring village. His story is an uplifting testament to the belief that one motivated individual can accomplish much, even when others have given up before even trying. --Deborah Donovan

I first read about Jackson Kaguri and the Nyaka school for AIDS orphans in an article in *Time Magazine*. In a world of sad and depressing news, it was so inspiring to read that one person can make a difference and start a movement to help the often forgotten victims of the AIDS epidemic, the orphans left behind. Kaguri speaks from heart breaking experience, having lost both his brother and sister to the disease. He had achieved the "dream" through his love of education. He had gone to school in Africa and came to America to finish his college career. He met the love of his life, they were married and starting to save money for a down payment for their first home. He then became responsible for his nieces and nephews left behind after his siblings' deaths. He then began to think of all the other AIDS orphans left behind who were not always fortunate enough to have someone to

care for them. A system of grandmothers who had raised their own children have now watched their grown children die and are raising their grandchildren. At first there were people who told Kaguri not to worry about it, that there was nothing he could do, but slowly there came together another group of people who joined his cause. I read this book in two day's time and have gone on to loan it to a friend. This is the type of book that you will want to share with others.

I teach an Academic Literacy class at a Community College. We are using Kaguri's book this semester as the text from which students will write essays on how the Power of One can change the world. This is an amazing story. I have students who NEVER read, come into the class in tears because of the words of Mr. Kaguri. They do not see reading this as a chore, but as a privilege. An amazing story; it has changed the way I look at the world, and education.

i learned of tweeky jackson kaguri from a television program shared by my husband. i immediately searched for information on dr. kaguri and read about the book the prices of stones. i also learned about the grandmothers' project for raising funds for the school. the book is a great study of how individuals can come together to support any cause, especially one of such controversy as hiv/aids. i laughed and i cried throughout reading the price of stones. i recommend for anyone interested in supporting our children and those who unselfishly help our youth. i am a retired educator from the classroom however i continue to share experiences and contribute to the education of our children. i have shared this book with others and will follow dr. kaguri's journey.

Beautifully written! Takes you into the heart and plight of a region in Uganda & how one man, with a vision, and a community came together to change their destiny. A blueprint for any activist organization!

I bought the book for Christmas for my husband because he is from Congo and we are starting our own organization to help orphans and poor rural communities. This is just what we needed for some fresh inspiration while we are living in the US. It is well-written and poignant. I am thoroughly enjoying this book (read half of it in the last two days...I have a toddler so that's quite an accomplishment!). I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the author is a Christian and that his faith was part of what has guided him in his efforts, although anyone (Christian or otherwise) would be able to enjoy and be inspired by this book.

This is truly one of the most touching and inspiration books that I have ever read. I simply could not put the book down. Twesigye Jackson Kaguri has shown me the extent of the human heart and how much good and compassion there really is in the world, something that is not often expressed in the media or even daily conversation. He has introduced such a sense of spirituality and inspiration to help not just those discussed in the book but everyone around you. He has allowed me to find a deeper appreciation for the life I have, how truly blessed I am, and how capable I am to others. I highly recommend this book to everyone, and I hope those who do read it receive as much value as I have. One person CAN make a difference.

I really got to know Jackson on a personal level through this book. The book goes deep into his personal struggles, his childhood, his turbulent and sometimes heartbreaking relationship with his own family. If you want a glimpse of what the HIV/AIDS crisis looks like in Uganda and what we can do about it, this book is highly recommended.

This is first time I have been moved to write a review. Twesigye Kaguri's book is an incredible story of how he came to build schools in his home country of Uganda for AIDS orphans. His journey has been difficult but what he has accomplished is truly amazing. His story will make you want to do everything you can to help.

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