



When Elephants Fight

By Eric Walters, Adrian Bradbury



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When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. This ancient proverb of the Kikuyu people, a tribal group in Kenya, Africa, is as true today as when the words were first spoken, perhaps thousands of years ago. Its essence is simplicity--when the large fight, it is the small who suffer most. And when it comes to war, the smallest, the most vulnerable, are the children. When Elephants Fight presents the stories of five children--Annu, Jimmy, Nadja, Farooq and Toma--from five very different and distinct conflicts--Sri Lanka, Uganda, Sarajevo, Afghanistan and the Sudan. Along with these very personal accounts, the book also offers brief analyses of the history and geopolitical issues that are the canvas on which these conflicts are cast. When Elephants Fight is about increasing awareness. For the future to be better than the past, better than the present, we must help equip our children with an awareness and understanding of the world around them and their ability to bring about change. Gandhi stated, "If you are going to change the world, start with the children."



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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Based on the eyewitness accounts of five children experiencing wars around the world, each chapter in this powerful volume tells one victim's personal story in detail, followed by a long discussion of the history and politics of the conflict. The narratives are in the third person, accompanied by occasional moving photos of the child before the war, of his or her home under fire, and a brief final "follow-up" note about where the child is now. Some young people are direct targets in cases of genocide, with child soldiers trained to dehumanize others. Some children bear the brunt of an attack, as so-called collateral damage, and suffer starvation, disease, and loss of shelter. They also lose out when there are no resources for health and education. Some are in refugee camps and army barracks. A few lucky ones are immigrants who escaped. One, Toma in Chad, remains an ongoing victim of war. The harrowing individual accounts humanize today's news reports and statistics. Add this to the Holocaust curriculum. Grades 6-12. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"A solid vehicle for discussions about the effects of war on children... Highly recommended." (*CM Magazine* 2008-09-01)

"Bradbury's personal experience with children in northern Uganda lends credence to these narratives, and readers will share his sympathies with these innocent victims." (*Kirkus Reviews* 2008-09-01)

"[Walters and Bradbury] provide a thoughtful historical and political analysis to assist young readers - along with many an older reader understandably confused by world events - in seeing how these conflicts arise... The tales provide a fresh and vibrant voice that needs to be heard." (*Quill & Quire* 2008-11-01)

"It should be mandatory reading! Highly, highly recommended." (*Tucson Unified School District* 2009-01-01)

"This outstanding book...is a recommended purchase for all middle and high school libraries. It is an interesting and powerful read that will appeal to the student interest in global issues, or anyone with an interest in children's rights." (*Resource Links* 2009-02-01)

"Worth the effort of media specialists and teachers to get it into the hands of students...This would be an excellent supplemental text for a high school geography or world civilization program. Highly Recommended." (*Library Media Connection* 2009-03-01)

"The narratives are filled with conflict, suspense, and action...Earth-toned pages, color photography, and informative sidebars make the book attractive." (*VOYA* 2009-04-01)

"The writing is accessible, and the kids' stories are compelling. The many photographs of children and landscapes help contextualize their stories." (*The Horn Book Guide* 2009-04-01)

"A comprehensive, yet concise, history of the conflicts or wars immediately following each child's story...An eye-opening perspective that is valuable to readers of all ages." (*Southwestern Ohio Young Adult Materials Review Group* 2009-03-01) --CM Magazine

About the Author

Order of Canada member, **Eric Walters** has published almost a hundred novels and picture books. He is a tireless presenter, speaking to over 100,000 students per year in schools across the country. He lives in Guelph, Ontario. For more information, visit www.ericwalters.net.

Adrian Bradbury is the co-founder and director of GuluWalk, a foundation dedicated to supporting the abandoned children of northern Uganda. Bradbury's writing on northern Uganda has appeared in both the *National Post* and Uganda's *Daily Monitor*, and for the continuing efforts of GuluWalk he earned a 2005 Planet Africa award and was recognized as a 'Newsmaker of the Year' by *Macleans* magazine. He lives in Toronto, Canada. For more information please visit www.guluwalk.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenneth Sisk:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the particular book you have read will be When Elephants Fight.

Donald Diaz:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this When Elephants Fight guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation When Elephants Fight as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one guide that can break don't ascertain book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this particular!?! Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Margarita Culbertson:

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Mary Moore:

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