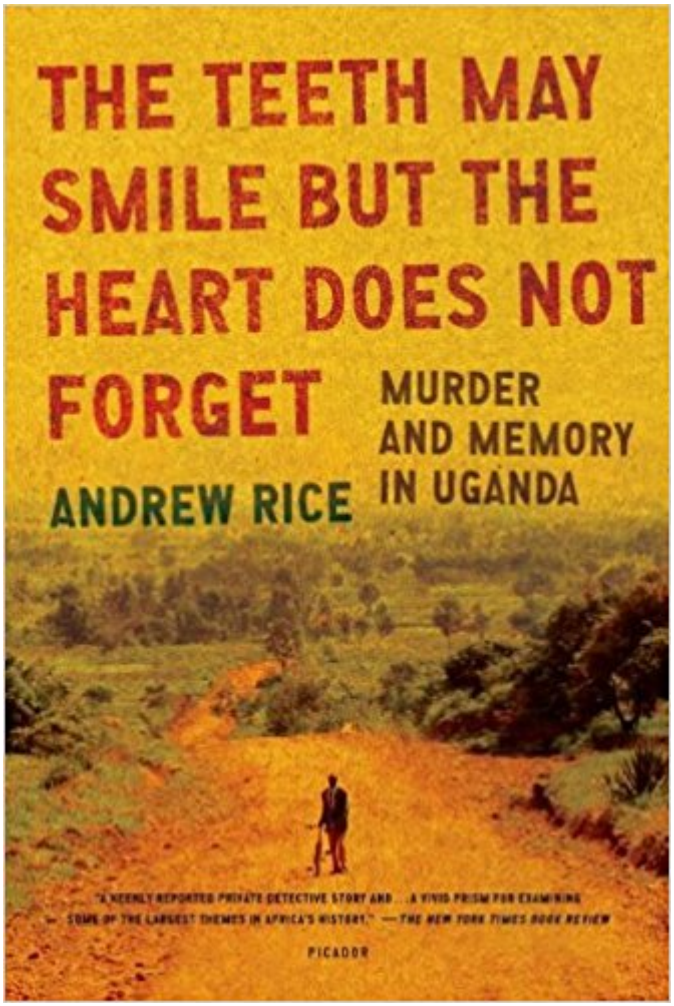
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The Teeth May Smile But The Heart Does Not Forget: Murder And Memory In Uganda



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Synopsis

From a new star of American journalism, a riveting murder mystery that reveals the forces roiling today’s Africa From Rwanda to Sierra Leone, African countries recovering from tyranny and war are facing an impossible dilemma: to overlook past atrocities for the sake of peace or to seek catharsis through tribunals and truth commissions. Uganda chose the path of forgetting: after Idi Amin’s reign was overthrown, the new government opted for amnesty for his henchmen rather than prolonged conflict. Ugandans tried to bury their history, but reminders of the truth were never far from view. A stray clue to the 1972 disappearance of Eliphaz Laki led his son to a shallow graveÃ¢â ¬â ¢and then to three executioners, among them Amin’s chief of staff. Laki’s discovery resulted in a trial that gave voice to a nation’s past: as lawyers argued, tribes clashed, and Laki pressed for justice, the trial offered Ugandans a promise of the reckoning they had been so long denied. For four years, Andrew Rice followed the trial, crossing Uganda to investigate Amin’s legacy and the limits of reconciliation. At once a mystery, a historical accounting, and a portrait of modern Africa, The Teeth May Smile But the Heart Does Not Forget is above all an exploration of how -- and whether -- the past can be laid to rest.One of Kirkus Reviews’ Best Books of 2009

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pushcart PrizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning journalist Rice captures the horrors of Idi Amin’s eight-year reign of terror over Uganda. At the core of the book is an unsolved disappearance: Eliphaz Laki, a local leader with ties to the anti-Amin opposition, vanished in the early days of the Amin regime. When his son, Duncan, uncovered a clue to his father’s disappearance 30 years later, the investigation

eventually implicated Amin's second-in-command, Maj. Gen. Yusuf Gowon. With Amin living out his years safely in Saudi Arabia, the trial of Gowon forced Uganda to confront its brutal past. Treating the Lakis' story as a microcosm of Uganda's own, the author weaves together the family's search for truth and justice with Uganda's history. From its intimate portrait of Eliphaz's grieving family to the wide-angle perspectives of the tumultuous postindependence years as Ugandans struggled to knit together a nation from the ethnically, linguistically and religiously diverse peoples within their colonial borders, the book recasts a familiar history in an entirely new light. Photos. (July) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“At its core, The Teeth May Smile but the Heart Does Not Forget is a keenly reported private detective story and police procedural about a son's search for justice many years after his father's betrayal and disappearance at the hands of Idi Amin's military henchmen. At the same time, Andrew Rice's book is an ably presented drama about the workings of a Ugandan courthouse. It is also an efficient primer on Uganda's tumultuous history and a political prÃƒÂ©cis of a succession of regimes, culminating with that of the current president, the increasingly authoritarian Yoweri Museveni. And on the broadest level, it is a vivid prism for examining some of the largest themes in Africa's history.Ã¢â ¬Â| A thoughtful meditation on the nature of memory, on forgiveness and reconciliation, told with a combination of attentiveness to historical background and genuine care for the lives of real people, The Teeth May Smile enriches the small world of serious Africa books for nonspecialists.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“A provocative story of war, death, and the quest for justice in the wake of Idi Amin's ruinous reign in Uganda... Reconciliation is an increasingly important process in nations once torn by fratricide. Rice's important book serves as an urgent case study, complete with a surprising outcome.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus Reviews (starred review)Ã¢â ¬Å“Treating the Lakis' story as a microcosm of Uganda's own, the author weaves together the family's search for truth and justice with Uganda's history. From its intimate portrait of Eliphaz's grieving family to the wide-angle perspectives of the tumultuous post-independence years as Ugandans struggled to knit together a nation from the ethnically, linguistically, and religiously diverse peoples within their colonial borders, The Teeth May Smile recasts a familiar history in an entirely new light.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers WeeklyÃ¢â ¬Å“A deeply moving book, telling a whole nation's story through one man's struggle for justice.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Giles Foden, author of The Last King of ScotlandÃ¢â ¬Å“Andrew Rice has done something remarkable: he has written a passionate, sophisticated, elegant book about

modern African history. Even more extraordinary, he has used Uganda to explore fundamental truths about memory and justice, and thus turned an African story into a universal one.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Peter Beinart, author of The Good FightÃ¢â ¬Å“Few journalists succeed in peering as deeply into a nation's soul as Andrew Rice has done with this remarkable exploration of memory, war and love in Uganda. This is more than a book about Africa, it is a book that holds up a mirror to the human soul.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Matthew Green, author of The Wizard of the NileÃ¢â ¬Å“Tyrant, killer, buffoon: Idi Amin was unforgettable. But his victims have largely been forgotten. Andrew Rice rescues one man's memory, gives him a face and a voice and lets him speak for a multitude of the dead. This is reporting at its best--as gripping as any murder mystery, but far more important, because every painful word is true.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Robert Guest, former Africa editor of The Economist and author of The Shackled ContinentÃ¢â ¬Å“A stunning book . . . In the idiosyncracies of Ugandan history and in the material he gathers from his sources, Rice finds -- without forcing it -- a universally appealing story about living through, and after, violence.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jina Moore, The Christian Science MonitorÃ¢â ¬Å“Insightful . . . Outstanding reporting . . . Rice's by-the-facts approach wields tremendous power. . . . A valuable contribution to the literature of memory and trauma.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The New York ObserverÃ¢â ¬Å“Compelling . . . much larger than a family tragedy. Through the experiences of the Lakis under the murderous dictatorship of Idi Amin, Rice takes on the age-old dilemmas of hatred, divisiveness, revenge, reconciliation, and the corruption of power .Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The Plain Dealer (Cleveland)

My work brings me to Uganda several times a year and to Mbarara in particular. A friend who loved in Uganda recommended this book for some further insight into a culture which has remained a bit elusive to me. From the rule of Obote, Amin, and even back to its European settlement, this book chronicles the history of rule and power in Uganda. The one thing that I understand a bit more than before is the importance of the various tribes and how tribal conflicts today still affect day-to-day life in Uganda. I've heard people say, "Oh, that's because she/he is Bahima" and I never quite knew what the meant or how heavy a statement like that is. Not that it means the same thing today as it did in the 1950's but I still find it fascinating. This is a really great read for anyone who wants to know about how Uganda's past affects its current state and future.

I recently traveled to Uganda and I wanted a book to read that would teach me some of the foundations of Ugandan history and culture while still being enjoyable to read. I could not have picked a more perfect book.The book tells the story of Duncan Laki, who is on a mission to

determine what happened to his father. Laki's father disappeared during the regimen of Idi Amin. I was somewhat surprised when less than a third of the way through the book we seem to have discovered Laki's fate. However, as the book progresses I see that the point is not who pulled the trigger. Instead the author takes us back to Ugandan's history. And I mean WAY back. To the formation of the Great Rift Valley. He tells the story of the first white explorers who traveled to Ugandan in search of soldiers. He tells the story of how colonialism shaped the country and and turned the once fluid tribal boundaries into sources of discrimination. He tells the story of how the politics of the day allowed a man like Idi Amin to come to power. The author tells the history of Uganda in an interesting and purposeful way that makes it clear that the fate of Laki's father was not determined by the hands of an executioner or whim of a terrible dictator, but that the events that determined his fate were really set into motion far far back in Uganda's history.This is a well-researched book about Uganda's history told with the pace and excitement of a murder mystery novel. A great choice for anyone interested in African history but without the dry tone of a history novel.

I loaned this book to our priest, who is from Uganda. He liked it so much that I bought another one for him.

Another book selected by my Men's Book and Gourmet Group, which provided insight, though emotionally painful, into how children in a tribal war-torn country,could become "children soldiers." One is left to wonder how those who survived could recover and live emotionally stable lives.

Excellent job of illustrating a very complex and intense part of Uganda's history. After reading this novel I wonder what is being done to help reconcile a nation that clearly has not been able to bring peace, justice and prosperity to so many who never buried lovers ounces that disappeared.

The story of Uganda from the beginning of its establishment to the current rule. The wars , the missionaries and colonial mind set of superiority. Beginning with a son's determined quest to find the murderer of his father and exposing layer upon layer of history as a result. Mr. Rice tells the tale in readable prose with an historian's facts and an truckload of documentation. All the while, never becoming dry or boring.

I recently traveled to Uganda and was looking for a book to help me better understand the politics

and culture amazing country. This is easily the best book I read on the country, and warm portly about the complexities of politics and forgiveness in a divided Africa.

Enjoyable book, though heartbreaking to read not only what the Laki family went through but also how the people of Uganda have struggled to find stability over the past half-century.It runs slow at times but it’s very much worth a read especially if you have an interest in East Africa/Uganda.

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