



Emma's War: A True Story

By Deborah Scroggins

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Tall, striking, and adventurous to a fault, young British relief worker Emma McCune came to Sudan determined to make a difference in a country decimated by the longest-running civil war in Africa. She became a near legend in the bullet-scarred, famine-ridden country, but her eventual marriage to a rebel warlord made international headlines—and spelled disastrous consequences for her ideals.

Enriched by Deborah Scroggins's firsthand experience as an award-winning journalist in Sudan, this unforgettable account of Emma McCune's tragically short life also provides an up-close look at the volatile politics in the region. It's a world where international aid fuels armies as well as the starving population, and where the northern-based Islamic government—with ties to Osama bin Laden—is locked in a war with the Christian and pagan south over religion, oil and slaves. Tying together these vastly disparate forces as well as Emma's own role in the problems of the region, **Emma's War** is at once a disturbing love story and a fascinating exploration of the moral quandaries behind humanitarian aid.

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Editorial Review

From [The New Yorker](#)

In 1991, in the middle of a refugee crisis in southern Sudan, a twenty-seven-year-old British aid worker named Emma McCune scandalized the relief community by marrying a local guerrilla leader; the author describes Emma's brief career as a "First Lady-in-Waiting" as "the kind of surreal sideshow that often accompanies disasters." Formerly a champion of children's rights, Emma couldn't stop her husband from holding hundreds of adolescent boys in a squalid camp. Although she embraced the hardships of African life (bouts of malaria, water teeming with bilharzia), she was well-fed by local standards, eating fish that her husband's soldiers had stolen from a weaker, starving tribe. Meanwhile, Emma's fellow-expatriates grew less enchanted with her the more "African" she became—sick and constantly in need. Scroggins, a veteran reporter on Sudan, uses Emma's story to examine the failure of Western idealism in Africa. Emma turned out to be an incidental character: she died in 1993, in a traffic accident in Nairobi; the fighting continues.

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Review

"Scroggins brings Sudan's agony to vivid life; at the same time, she gives us a lyrical, suspenseful, psychologically acute study in idealism and self-delusion." —George Packer, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Breathtaking and beautifully written. . . . Deborah Scroggins weaves the greater issues of Sudan around [Emma] McCune's idealism." —*USA Today*

"Brilliantly penetrating. . . . In [Emma McCune] Scroggins has found a feckless, captivating subject, as insufferable as the white man's insatiable need for redemption in Africa.... Scroggins undoes every illusion about aid, hunger and rebellion." —*Washington Post*

"A wonderful, challenging book. . . . One of the best that I have ever read on the difficult relationship between the developed world and the Third World." —William Shawcross, *Sunday Times* (London)

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

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Sarah Creamer:

This Emma's War: A True Story are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason why of this Emma's War: A True Story can be on the list of great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you with information that probably will shock your previous knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed types. Beside that this Emma's War: A True Story forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Holly Sheehan:

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Audra Yoder:

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