

**War Brothers: The Graphic Novel**

**Sharon E. McKay and Daniel Lafrance**

**Reviewed by: Anika 17**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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War Brothers takes place in Uganda during a time where the Lord's Resistance Army (LRC) is out abducting thousands of children to be used as soldiers and slaves. The novel follows the story of a group of children captured by Kony's army and the violence they face from the ruthless LRC soldiers as they pray for rescue. Nightmares and horrors await them at every turn as the children struggle to survive on their own in this costly war. They have no one to rely on but themselves to find a way out of Kony's army alive.

I am not usually one to read graphic novels, but War Brothers was a pleasant surprise. It was truly a brutal and moving story. Lafrance's artwork and detail is astounding and perfectly captures the intense emotion in every panel and scene. I found Lafrance's use of graphic weight to be incredibly effective as it makes Joseph's and children's time with the LRC distinctive and well distinguished from their time away from the LRC. The raw emotion and suffering I saw took me on an emotional roller coaster as I began to learn about the realities of this war. Sharon E. McKay's writing aids in creating a story of great depth and meaning by exploring faith and tragedy through the lenses of war. On a side note, McKay wrote this story based in part on the experiences of child soldiers in Uganda.

That being said, this book can be frightening for younger readers. There are moments of violence and suffering that readers may find to be too much to handle. They were not overly graphic, but I would recommend this graphic novel to anyone 13 years or older. War Brothers: The Graphic Novel would make a great gift for fans of graphic novels and of stories that take place in Africa

**Recommended Titles:**

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal by Connor Grennan

I Will Always Write Back By Martin Ganda

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice by Bryan Stevenson