

stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

"My new friends have begun to suspect I haven't told them the full story of my life.

'Why did you leave Sierra Leone?'

'Because there is a war.'

'You mean, you saw people running around with guns and shooting each other?'

'Yes, all the time.'

'Cool.'

I smile a little.

'You should tell us about it sometime.'

'Yes, sometime.'"

- Title: *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*
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