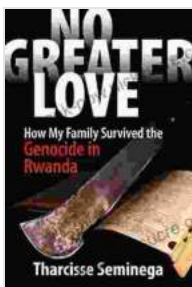


# How My Family Survived the Genocide in Rwanda: A Survivor's Account

In the heart of Africa, Rwanda experienced one of the most horrific genocides in human history. In 1994, over 800,000 people were brutally murdered in a span of 100 days. The scars of this tragedy run deep, and the survivors' stories serve as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. This is my family's account of how we survived the Rwandan Genocide.

The seeds of the Rwandan Genocide were sown in the colonial era, when Belgium divided the country's population into two ethnic groups: the Hutus and the Tutsis. This arbitrary division created a deep-seated animosity between the two groups, which was fueled by political and economic grievances.

In the years leading up to the genocide, tensions escalated. Hate speech and propaganda spread through the media, inciting violence against the Tutsi population. Warnings of an impending genocide went unheeded, and the international community stood by as the situation deteriorated.



## No Greater Love: How My Family Survived the Genocide in Rwanda by Tharcisse Seminega

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 41471 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 277 pages



On April 6, 1994, the assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana set off a wave of violence that swept the country. Hutu extremists, armed with machetes, spears, and guns, took to the streets and began targeting Tutsi civilians. Our family, Tutsi refugees from Burundi, found ourselves trapped in this nightmare.

Our lives were torn apart in an instant. Our home was burned to the ground, and we were forced to flee for our lives. As we ran through the streets, we witnessed unspeakable horrors. People were being hacked to death, burned alive, and thrown from buildings. The air was thick with the smell of smoke and blood.

We stumbled into a nearby church, hoping to find sanctuary. However, the church had been infiltrated by Interahamwe militia, who were systematically rounding up Tutsis. We knew we had to find a way to escape.

With the help of a sympathetic Hutu neighbor, we managed to sneak out of the church and hide in a nearby house. We spent the next three months huddled together in a small room, terrified of being discovered. We lived in constant fear, listening to the sounds of violence outside our door.

One night, we heard a knock on the door. It was the Interahamwe. We held our breath, terrified. But then, the door opened, and a young Hutu man appeared. He was a friend of our neighbor, and he had come to warn us that the militia was planning to raid the house.

We had to leave immediately. With trembling hands, we packed our few belongings and slipped out of the house under the cover of darkness. We ran through the night, unsure of where we were going or if we would ever find safety.

We survived the genocide, but the physical and emotional scars remained. We had lost everything: our family, our home, our community. We were refugees in a foreign land, struggling to come to terms with the horrors we had witnessed.

Over the years, we have slowly rebuilt our lives. We have found a new home, a new community, and a new purpose. But the memories of the genocide haunt us still. We will never forget the loved ones we lost and the suffering we endured.

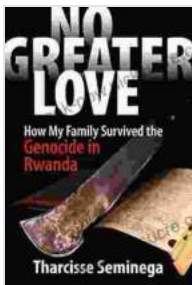
The Rwandan Genocide is a dark chapter in human history, but it is also a story of survival and resilience. By sharing our story, we hope to shed light on the horrors of genocide and to remind the world of the importance of preventing such atrocities from happening again.

We believe that memory is essential for healing and reconciliation. We must never forget the victims of the Rwandan Genocide, and we must continue to fight against all forms of hatred and intolerance.

My family's survival against all odds is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit. We have learned that even in the darkest of times, there is hope. We have found healing and new purpose in our lives, and we are committed to working for a world free of genocide.

As we remember the Rwandan Genocide, let us pledge to never forget the victims and to strive for a world where all people can live in peace and dignity.

- **Image 1:** A group of Rwandan survivors huddled together in a refugee camp.
- **Image 2:** A young Rwandan girl holds a candle during a memorial service for the victims of the genocide.
- **Image 3:** A Rwandan man stands in front of a wall covered in the names of genocide victims.
- **Image 4:** A group of Rwandan children playing in a field.
- **Image 5:** A memorial statue commemorating the victims of the Rwandan Genocide.



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