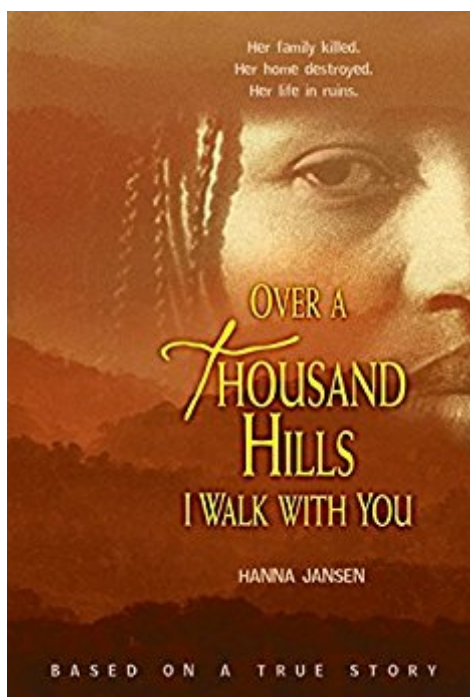


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# Over A Thousand Hills I Walk With You (Fiction - Young Adult)



## Synopsis

Before one fateful April day, Jeanne lived the life of a typical Rwandan girl. She fought with her little sister, went to school, and teased her brother. Then, in one horrifying night, everything changed. Political troubles unleashed a torrent of violence upon the Tutsi ethnic group. Jeanne's family, all Tutsis, fled their home and tried desperately to reach safety. They "along with nearly 1 million others" did not survive. The only survivor of her family's massacre, Jeanne witnessed unspeakable acts. But through courage, wits, and sheer force of will, she survived. Based on a true story, this haunting novel by Jeanne's adoptive mother makes unforgettably real the events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide as one family experienced it. Jeanne's story is a tribute to the human spirit and its capacity to heal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

OVER A THOUSAND HILLS I WALK WITH YOU is the horrifying novel that is based on a true story about the 1994 Rwandan genocide. This was a subject that I didn't know too much about until I read this book, which made me realize how horrible events such as this one are still happening in today's society. How we could let this happen is beyond me. The book is written by the adoptive mother of

Jeanne to tell the story that is often called the modern day Holocaust. As with the original Holocaust, many children were left to fight for themselves and try and find a new way to survive. Jeanne's family is killed and she is left to fend for herself, and the book is about how she achieves that. When you read this book you aren't on the basic level of thinking. You are much beyond that. The imagery in this book is not good, because in no way do you want this to happen to anyone, but at the same time it's very real. I felt as if I were standing the fields and forests and homes of these people and was surrounded by people fighting for their lives. Reviewed by: Taylor Rector

Hanna Jansen's *OVER A THOUSAND HILLS I WALK WITH YOU* is a touching tribute to her adopted daughter who was orphaned in the Rwandan war. Based on her daughter's recollections of her childhood--memories both pleasant and bittersweet--Jansen weaves a tale of sorrow, hope, fear, joy, and love. For example, the early chapters of the book feature a young girl living life large. She is visiting her grandmother. She's playing with her cousins. She's fighting with her sister and brother. Her mom works outside the home, her dad is away a lot...and she has an incredibly whiny sister that she struggles with on a daily basis. She's vibrant and unaware that her world would change in just a few short years. Later chapters reveal the pain, the loss, the confusion, the fear of not knowing if one is going to survive another day. Witnessing such atrocities as seeing your parents and siblings killed by strange soldiers. Seeking help from family friends, yet being turned away because they don't want to risk dying too. Her survival story is inspiring. The story is beautifully told, Jansen has done a great job here. Her book is definitely worth reading.

I have been searching for a realistic novel to use in order to teach my Humanities classes about the Rwandan Genocide for over a year. This is THE book!! It is beautifully written from cover to cover, and the novel allows the reader to live through the atrocity while questions get humanity. I chose this book because I want my kids to question the things that have happened throughout history, so that they can make better decisions than those who came before them. This book will allow them to do that.

This is a deeply affecting and important book about the bewildering phenomenon of the Rwandan genocide - how six months during 1994 devastated and changed forever this part of Africa. It is sensitively written, told from the point of view of Jeanne, an eight-year-old survivor. I shall ponder the wisdom within it for months to come. I have a criticism about the quality of the writing but cannot say whether the problem is in the translation. Perhaps the author, Hanna Jansen, is not a natural

writer but even so the translator might have done a better job and used fewer word repetitions. I found her American voice palled at times too. I liked the chapter intros each of which were short scenes in Jeanne's adoptive home in Germany. This showed how healing was taking place, although I found the end where Hanna Jansen, the author and adoptive German mother, claimed to completely share and understand what Jeanne had been through. Sorry but no - you cannot possibly! Nevertheless it is a powerful story which deserves wide readership.

I picked up this book in the Atlanta library young adult section, and it proved to be one of the most impactful books I have ever read. I was in 7th grade watching coverage of these events on Channel One from my cozy classroom - but I never understood in any meaningful way what happened. I can't even put into words how much this book changed my world view. Thank you to the author and her daughter for sharing this story. It is one that needs to be told over and over again.

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