

“Lieve Joris is of the caliber of Naipaul or Ryszard Kapuściński, 50 percent traveler, 50 percent journalist, 100 percent writer.” —Elle (France)

THE REBELS’ HOUR

Lieve Joris

Translated from the Dutch by Liz Waters

- Recent best sellers such as *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah and *What Is the What* by Dave Eggers shed light on the plight of innocent children in Africa. This is the first ever close-up portrait of one of the men in charge
- Joris won the 1999 Belgian triennial award for Flemish prose and the French Prix de l'Astrolabe for her book *Mali Blues*
- One thousand people die every day in Congo's ongoing conflict
- prepublication reading copies available
- major review coverage
- national media campaign including print and radio interviews

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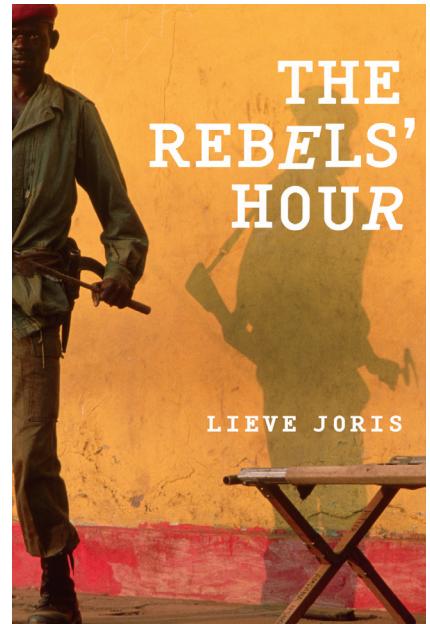
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Lieve Joris has long been considered “one of the best journalists in the world . . . following in the footsteps of Herodotus as well as Ibn Khaldoun or Ryszard Kapuściński” (*Libération*, France). In *The Rebels’ Hour*, she illuminates the dark heart of contemporary Congo through the prism of one lonely and complicated man—a rebel leader named Assani who eventually becomes a high-ranking general in the Congolese army.

When Assani, a young cowherd, leaves his remote eastern village to pursue his studies in the city, he learns that he is ethnically Tutsi; though uninterested in politics or military life, he is forced to take sides in the bloody conflict rocking the Congo in the wake of the genocide in neighboring Rwanda. Strong, clever, and trusting of no one, he becomes a fearsome rebel leader. With his expanding cadre of child soldiers he traverses the war-ravaged country, repeatedly dodging death at the hands of competing rebel factions in the bush, angry mobs in the capital city of Kinshasa, and even the rebel-turned-dictator Laurent Kabila himself.

The Rebels’ Hour thrusts us into Assani’s world, forcing us to navigate the chaos of a lawless country alongside him, compelled by an instinct to survive in a place where human life has been stripped of value. Though pathologically evasive, Assani—in Joris’s horrifying and brilliant zoom-lens portrait—stands out in relief as a man who is both monstrous and sympathetic, perpetrator and victim.

“Lieve Joris has that rare ability to follow both paths, the general and the particular, the panorama and the close-up, the analysis and the narrative, without ever losing track of either.” —*Libération* (France)

“What Lieve Joris does is not so much field research as the literary vivisection of contemporary history.” —*Septentrion* (Belgium)

LIEVE JORIS was born in Belgium in 1953. One of Europe’s leading travel writers, she has won many awards for her books on Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.