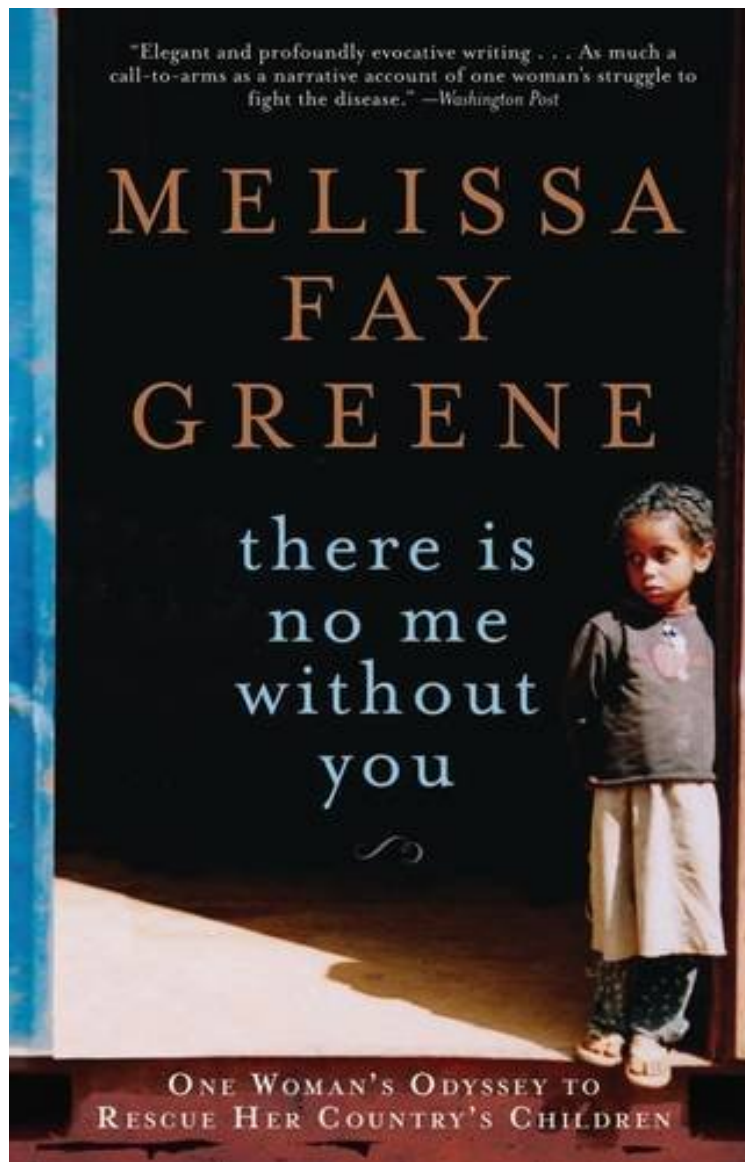


(Download free pdf) There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Her Country's Children

## There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Her Country's Children

*Melissa Fay Greene*

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**Melissa Fay Greene : There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Her Country's Children** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Her Country's Children:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Surprising, dismaying, impactful; a must-read  
By C. Raven  
This book is two stories side-by-side. One story is the very intimate portrayal of a woman who accidentally created an orphanage and found herself, for better or worse, knee-deep in an exploding and unrecognized crisis in Ethiopia. Things didn't always go well but she did the best she could with the tools she had and ultimately impacted the lives of many children (and adoptive parents!). The second story is the story of AIDS in Africa and the world's reaction to the crisis, and I guarantee that unless you have extensively studied on that subject you will be surprised and dismayed at what you learn. Definitely a must-read for every socially conscious human.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
Many More Layers than Expected  
By tolarjev  
Based on reviews, I expected a good book about a noble woman who altruistically takes care of AIDS orphans. Yes, it's that, but there was so much more depth and insight, and vastly superior writing than I had expected. This is not a hagiography. The author tells the story of this woman interspersed with information about AIDS (theories as to its origins, epidemiology statistics, the history of the development of medicines and their patents), and stories of families who've adopted Ethiopian orphans. She personalizes a catastrophe. She could inspire someone with no interest in small children (me) to (almost) want to adopt an orphan. What was most superb was how this story of this woman encompasses the strange turns lives can take. The Ethiopian woman, Haregewoin, didn't wake up one day and decide to open an orphanage. She was ready to effectively end her life due to grief over her daughter's death when a priest asked her to take care of one orphan, and that gave her a *raison d'etre*. This escalates into running a large orphanage and being pivotal in foreign adoptions. There are unexpected twists, even scandals, and an illustration of how no good deed goes unpunished. This story encapsulates the Internet's upside (intercontinental communication), and downside (misinformation spread so repetitively that it appears to be true). The most fascinating chapter was about Haregewoin's trip to the U.S. The most touching chapter was about an American couple taking their newly adopted two children to their birth village so they could see their grandfather before they left Ethiopia. After reading this, I find myself trying to picture 10% of everyone I know dying of AIDS. And having seven-year old girls taking care of their younger siblings, and having our best hope be that someone from China or Nigeria will swoop in to take the children off the sinking ship. That's very hard to picture, but that's the scenario depicted by this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Incredible book of one woman's struggle to care for an impossible number of AIDS orphans  
By Send the Light  
I listened to the CD version of this book before I went on a medical mission to Ethiopia fall 2009. The book told me so things that I did not know about Ethiopia and Africa, and it was a real eye-opener about AIDS and healthcare in Africa, as well as the disgrace of the pharmaceutical companies who, with the complicity of western governments, kept AIDS medicines from a dying continent. The oral reading was elegant and made a deep impression. The words themselves demonstrate what a finely crafted book this is, and the narrating was superb. It is an incredible book. The weaving of the story of humanity, of individuals, of governments, of healthcare, science and history are amazing. My only disappointment was that Bloombury, the publisher of the paperback version, has fallen in the same trap that many other publishers have done. The current practice of the last few years seems to be cutting production costs by skimping on printing ink. This results in type that is so light that it becomes annoying and makes reading the book a far from satisfactory experience. And woe to the older generation who find it increasingly difficult to read the new generation of books with the dull ink. As for the book on CD, I would recommend it to EVERYBODY who loves books or has the faintest interest in Ethiopia, Africa, AIDS, the human predicament, history, or life at its best and worst. The book was completely engrossing, telling the tale of one woman's struggle care for an impossible number of AIDS orphans, of families lost and gained, and how her life's work intersected with multitudes of lives around the world. I drive a lot in my work, and each day looked forward to hearing what was happening next. I'm not sure about the hard back edition, having never seen it, but would suggest you look into it if you have an aversion to light ink as I do. The book also makes a great reference to keep on hand. For that reason the written form is valuable, but the CD version is, as I said before, impressive. I have not seen the hardback version, hopefully it is a better product than the paperback.

Two-time National Book Award nominee Melissa Fay Greene puts a human face on the African AIDS crisis with this powerful story of one woman working to save her country's children. After losing her husband and daughter, Haregewoin Teferra, an Ethiopian woman of modest means, opened her home to some of the thousands of children in Addis Ababa who have been left as orphans. *There Is No Me Without You* is the story of how Haregewoin transformed her home into an orphanage and day-care center and began facilitating adoptions to homes all over the world, written by a star of literary nonfiction who is herself an adoptive parent. At heart, it is a book about children and parents, wherever they may be, however they may find each other.

From Publishers Weekly  
Lawrence's sincere and emphatic rendering of Greene's words only add to the hopeful yet solemn tone throughout this tale of Haregewoin Teferra, a woman who turned her compound into a home for children with or orphaned by AIDS. Greene keenly connects the broad histories of African colonization, Ethiopia's political changes and AIDS with the personal lives of Ethiopians and most AIDS victims in the Third World. She covers a wide range of topics including profiles of the many children who come to stay with Teferra, contemporary debates about the

origin of AIDS and the social effect AIDS has on Ethiopia in terms of production and stability. With so many avenues, some narrators might become inconsistent or incapable of handling redirection, but Lawrence fluctuates her voice according to the need of the text. Lawrence segues unhesitatingly whether using a more reserved and tempered voice for the historical insertions, emphasizing particular words in a definition or relaying a bemusing story about a child. Music at the end of each CD prepares listeners for the change, but it's Lawrence who creates the mood and atmosphere. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

From Booklist  
The horrific numbers behind the AIDS pandemic in Africa, "the most terrible epidemic in human history," have little resonance for most people in the West: "the ridiculous numbers wash over most of us." But this searing account humanizes the statistics through heartbreaking, intimate stories of what it is like for young orphans left alone in Ethiopia. Greene's story focuses on one rescuer, Haregewoin Teferra, who has opened her home and compound in a rickety hillside neighborhood of Addis Ababa and taken in hundreds of the untouchables thrown in the streets and left at her door. She cannot turn them away. Yes, the comparisons with Mother Teresa are there, but this is no hagiography; the middle-aged Teferra is "just an average person with a little more heart." Greene tells the stories in unforgettable vignettes of loss, secrecy, panic, stigma, and, sometimes, hope, even as she documents the big picture of "the human landslide," the history and science of epidemiology and transmission, and expresses her fury at the "crimes against humanity" of the multinational drug companies whose expensive patents have denied millions access to the life-saving medicines. Just as moving are the personal stories of international adoptions in the U. S., including two Ethiopian children taken into Greene's own Atlanta family. The detail of one lost child at a time, who finds love, laughter, comfort, and connection, opens up the universal meaning of family. Hazel Rochman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

Greene's nuanced portrait of this heroine places Teferra at the center of a global crisis but never loses its focus on the innocent victims. People (four stars, Critic's Choice) A powerful story--by turns sad, politically infuriating, and inspiring--and Greene brings her formidable intelligence and eloquence to the telling. Grade: A Entertainment Weekly (EW Pick) Elegant and profoundly evocative writing as much a call-to-arms as a narrative account of one woman's struggle to fight the disease. Washington Post A truly inspiring bookgripping and heartfelt This is a story not to be missed. Christian Science Monitor A deeply personal chronicle of human suffering and sinister global politics featuring orphaned children and devoted adults whose courage will inspire even the most skeptical. Chicago Tribune