

WHAT is the WHAT book review by- Rosalie Swana

What is the What is a novel by Dave Eggers.

What is the What is New York Times best seller. It has won the Finalist National book critical circle award for fiction. This book is highly recommended to read Lev Grossman from the Times says “ A moving, frightening, improbably, beautiful book. Its an inspiring book Michiko Kakutani from the New York Times says “ A testament of the triumph of hope over experience, human resilience over tragedy and disaster.”

This is a short summary of What is the What. The main characters name is Valentino Achak Deng. It is told from the point of view of Achak. It goes through his journey full of the struggles that come when being new and living in the United States. Achak was one of the 20,000 lost Boys. The boys were sent to the United States as adults to live their lives. Achak grew up seeing his and others families murdered and homes destroyed in southern sudan caused by the war. During the whole book he is reflecting back to his memories while trying to get by in the USA trying to survive with different struggles. He's trying to fit into a different culture almost different world. I feel as though the way Dave Eggers built Achak as a character was unbelievably strong I truly love his character. I feel so strongly about this character because throughout the whole book he is strong not only with his action in the book also with his narration.

I can't say I fully relate to what Achak goes through. Although I can relate somehow ever since I was little I knew people who had gone through situations like these some over our families close friends. So I can't relate personally but as a witness of people and families living like this i can. When I was younger my mom would have lots of

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friends over lots from other countries. There was one friend who was from Palestine she would always tell me about what she went through how she had to deal with family members she loved being killed. She told me how she would go back to visit and find that her family had moved to try and get away or that another aunt or uncle was missing. She also said how when she moved to the United states it was so scary for her having to get a custom to the people and environment. So in some ways I can relate having known what real people close to me have had to experience.

I strongly recommend this book especially to people very interested in english literature. The book is beautifully written in so many ways. The narration really makes you feel like you are reading someones journal. The character development of Achak was perfect. The story felt very personal, when Achak talks about when he was younger what was witnessed felt and remembered it really grabs you. The strongest things of the book really were narration story and feel of the book the emotion. If there was one thing to change i would change some of the actual story i would make it longer and more detail.

I strongly recommend this book because it is beautifully written and it really grabs you as a reader within your heart and mind. I recommend this book very strongly to any english teachers or students interested in english literature.