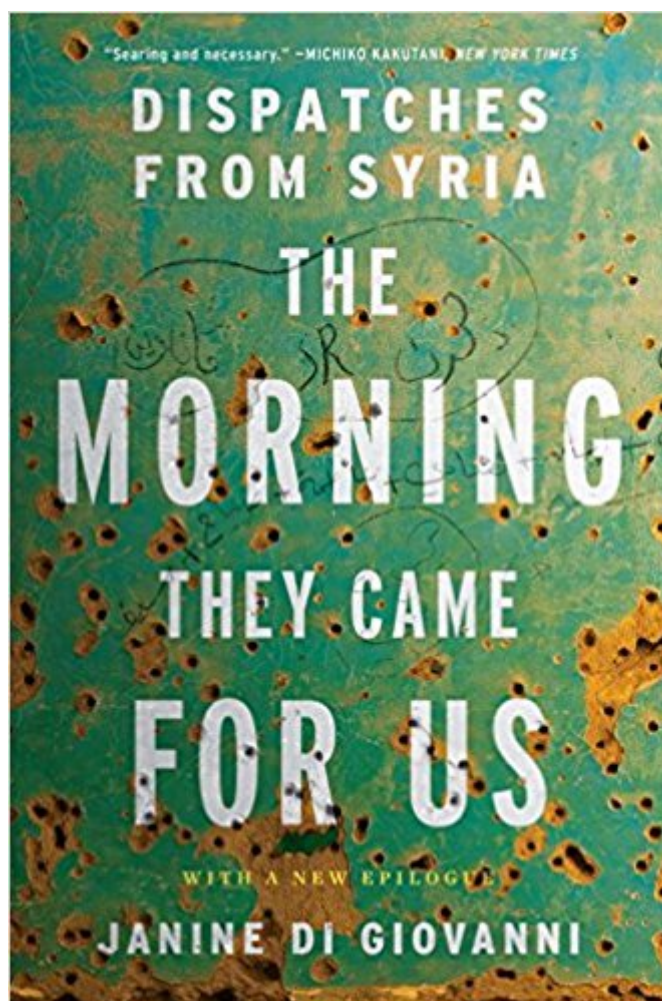


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# The Morning They Came For Us: Dispatches From Syria



## Synopsis

A New York Post Best Book of 2016 Winner of the 2016 IWMF Courage in Journalism Award Winner of the 2016 Hay Festival Medal for Prose "Destined to become a classic." —Lisa Shea, Elle A masterpiece of war reportage, *The Morning They Came for Us* bears witness to one of the most brutal internecine conflicts in recent history. Drawing from years of experience covering Syria for *Vanity Fair*, *Newsweek*, and the front page of the *New York Times*, award-winning journalist Janine di Giovanni chronicles a nation on the brink of disintegration, all written through the perspective of ordinary people. With a new epilogue, what emerges is an unflinching picture of the horrific consequences of armed conflict, one that charts an apocalyptic but at times tender story of life in a jihadist war zone. The result is an unforgettable testament to resilience in the face of nihilistic human debasement.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

—“Heartbreaking—[A] haunting reminder of what the Syrian revolution, ultimately, is about—Amid our obsession with ISIS, these tales are worth remembering.— Anand Gopal, *New York Times Book Review*—“Necessary, difficult and elating—[C]lear-eyed and engaged in the best sense—engaged in the human realm rather than the abstractly political.— Robin Yassin-Kassab, *The Guardian*—“It is crucial to reveal the human stories behind the news—and—Janine di Giovanni does this with heartbreaking eloquence.— Elif Shafak, *Financial Times*—“A must read filled with bitter realities.— Denise Hassanzade Ajiri, *Christian Science Monitor*—“Ms. di Giovanni

writes here with urgency and anguish — determined to testify to what she has witnessed because she wants — people never to forget. — Her testimony is contained here in this searing and necessary book. — - Michiko Kakutani, New York Times — “The Morning They Came for Us moves from a cosmopolitan — bubble of parties — in 2011 to — the aftermath of a barrel bomb — today as di Giovanni observes slaughter and rape with the equal (if occasionally opposing and heartbreaking) empathies of war correspondent and mother. — - Lea Carpenter, Vanity Fair — “What life is like for ordinary Syrians who have stayed behind is the subject of Janine di Giovanni’s — heartbreaking book — [U]nsensational but unsparing — [I]t is individual stories, rather than victims counted in the millions, that reveal the terrible cost of leaving dictators in place for the sake of — stability. — — — - Joan Smith, Observer — “Di Giovanni writes vividly and we see with her how Damascene supporters of Assad drift away as the brutality of his rule became impossible to deny — |Di Giovanni explains to us how horrible it all really is. — - Sam Kiley, Evening Standard

Janine di Giovanni, Middle East editor of Newsweek and contributing editor at Vanity Fair, has won seven major awards, including the National Magazine Award and two Amnesty International Awards. Her work is widely anthologized, and her article from Harper’s —, “Life during Wartime,” was chosen by Paul Theroux for The Best American Travel Writing. The author of seven books, di Giovanni is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ — Workshop and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where she was a Pakis Fellow. She lives in Paris.

This should be required reading for us all. It was a little hard to follow at first and written like someone reviewing from memory, but she writes with compassion. This is a short, spare, but grim account of a war that has changed the landscape of such a beautiful country. I even went online and reviewed pictures of the before and after Syria. Such devastation, such loss, such suffering — the human cost is almost too hard to fathom. The war will continue until there is no country left.

Fascinating and enlightening glimpse specifically concerning Syria and the madness happening in a country when anarchy occurs where no one knows who’s in control and no one knows who the real enemy is. Every thing seems random and mass rape becomes a type of warfare and intimidation. As usual, we in the States go on with our privileged lives oblivious to the plight of millions of innocent Muslims that we have no interest in helping, preferring only to demonize them!

When you have read this book you will have such a greater understanding of the plight of those fleeing poor Syria. I live in New Zealand, far from Syria. New Zealand news gives us a cursory look at the background of war in Syria so I bought this for a greater understanding of what is going on there. di Giovanni more than satisfied my curiosity - she writes dispassionately covering both sides (all sides) of this complicated problem. The Syrian people were just like New Zealanders - going to work, universities, schools; sitting in cafes, concerts, leading good lives. Now these lives are shattered. A brilliant book by a very accomplished journalist and writer.

A reporters eye view of the Middle East situation detailing, sometimes in excruciating detail, the suffering of the local populations not involved as military participants. Her travels in the refugee camps and throughout Syria also show the Press's courage of going into such dangerous places and risk becoming hostages or being involved even accidentally in a bombing raid are told. Very current. Somewhat repetitive toward the end of the book but still a very good read.

I think I learned many things from this book but the "dispatches" were so disjointed that it was difficult to place where I was in the narrative of the story she was writing and the war. That, and the ego-centric pov of the writer left me more with a sense of her desire to be seen and heard than the actual story of the war. If the book was better edited it could be a very important narrative of a modern war. In any event, it was a worthwhile short read that raised many questions for me.

I wanted a non-biased perspective on what is happening in Syria. I was having a hard time understanding how this war is still continuing after six years. This book gave me a better perspective on what is happening and who is fighting and why. Janine compare her previous journeys of war correspondence and it helps. She understands that she is not a Syrian and reported the stories this way. Thanks for trying to help people understand.

For anyone that ever complains about Syrian refugees coming into their country, may I suggest you pick up this book to learn exactly what Syrians are fleeing from. Very insightful and haunting. Brings to light what the Syrian government is doing to its own people, and that there is no right side of the argument.

Janine di Giovanni was in Syria from the beginning of the war and tells all, including the human

stories behind the horror, the surreal onset of war, and the geopolitical ramifications. Her book is short, well-written, heartbreaking, and will leave you with an understanding of the situation in Syria from multiple sides. I can't recommend it enough.

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