



*Even the Dead  
are Coming*

A memoir of Sudan

Mike Robbins

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In 1987 Mike Robbins, a 30-year-old London journalist, decided on a change of lifestyle and signed up for two years as an overseas volunteer. Some weeks later he found himself standing with his luggage in the middle of a featureless baked-earth plain in Eastern Sudan. It was over 100 deg F in the shade. And there was no shade. This is Robbins's account of the two years that followed, working with the Sudan Government in the last months of a failed democratic experiment, as the country coped with hundreds of thousands of refugees in the aftermath of the 1980s famine. But it is also a personal account of life as a development volunteer in a surprising, sometimes inspiring, country.

## Even the Dead Are Coming Details

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## From Reader Review Even the Dead Are Coming for online ebook

### Jason says

In the 1980's Mike Robbins worked in Sudan helping out with the refugee issues they were experiencing. I was too young at the time to be aware at what was going on over in Sudan. When Mike went over there the country was at breaking point, for a number of years due to famine and war refugees had been gradually crossing over into Sudan.

Mike's writing style is more like listening to a man "talk" about his experiences, his writing has quite a distinct voice, he quite often goes off on a tangent but soon gets back on track, the topic is so interesting and his way of talking is so engrossing that you don't always notice these tangents. He includes a good deal of information on the state of the country and it's people, it's history and even it's climate. Mike goes through a lot whilst there, plenty of danger, quite often hungry, suffering from malaria and he drinks some of the dodgiest booze ever, how he survived is beyond me. This was a fascinating read, I feel I've learnt a lot about Sudan, it is a shame that so few have read it. You can see a selection of photos on his facebook page to tempt you into reading. Link is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?s...>

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### Debbie Steiner says

An authentical, with fresh eyes perceived record of an 30 years old British volunteers Sudan experience at the end of the 80ties. Those few charming grammatical bugs only add to its originality ;-)

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### Lilo says

I find it extremely difficult to review this book. I don't even know where to start.

So let's start with the book cover and the title: Both are great, wonderful, perfect! Could not be any better.

Then, let's continue with the contents: The author spends (almost) two years in Sudan as a voluntary aid worker. Sounds interesting. IS interesting.

Now, how about the writing style?

And here, I am running into problems. The author is clearly a talented writer. There are passages in the book that are wonderfully written. I especially admired the descriptions of the weather, the colors of the sky, and how the morning light and evening light affected the landscape.

Yet I feel bound to criticize the unclear writing. Not only do certain sentences not fit properly together, there are also sentence structures which left me pondering after reading the sentence several times, and there are unclear and even wrong modifiers. Besides, there are numerous typos, which didn't bother me too much but

might raise the eyebrows of other readers. What annoyed me the most was the frequent jumping back and forth with locations and time. It may or may not be my age, but I kept getting confused. The ample use of untranslated Arabic words didn't help either. (I assume that only very few readers of this book happen to understand Arabic.) Add to this that the book has no maps. All this resulted in me getting the feeling of being lost in the Sudanese desert without a compass.

Something else that bothered me: It wasn't until I was quite far into this book before the author revealed what he was actually doing in Sudan. I eventually learned that he was producing a newsletter and later a magazine.

Notwithstanding its flaws, this book provided me with a knowledge about Third World countries, particularly Sudan and its neighbors, that I didn't have a clue about before. It also let me count my blessings that I didn't proceed with the idea I had nourished for a short while during my late teens to become a voluntary aid worker on some exotic part of this planet. This wouldn't have been for me. Yucky toilets and sewage pits, no toilet paper, myriads of mosquitoes (carrying malaria), various other nasty stinging insects, lack of hygiene (for instance, the habit of people sharing food, using hands), food I don't think I would have wanted to even try, above 100 F temperatures and no air condition in aid workers' living quarters, and, and, and, and, and ... and last but not least, hazardous electricity, hazardous road conditions, and hazardous driving—no siree, not for me!—I must say, however, that I would not have had problems coping with the alcohol prohibition, which seemed to give the author some trouble.

Conclusively, I would like to state that I am glad that I read this book. So I think that 3 stars on Goodreads (= I like it) and 4 stars on Amazon (= I liked it) are a fair rating.

Maybe the author will consider giving this book an overhaul. With a (mind you, rather extensive) work-over, this book could easily deserve 5-star ratings.—And by all means, Mr. Robbins, ADD SOME MAPS!

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