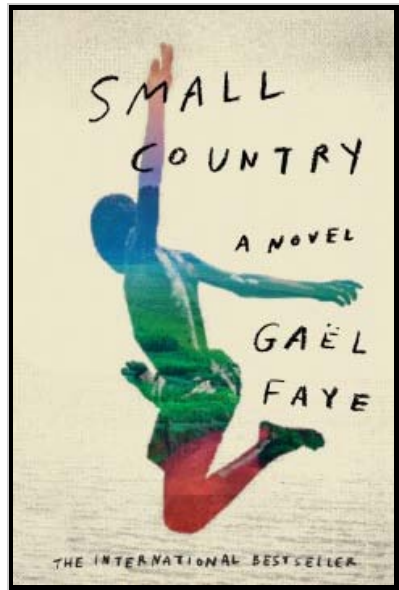




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Small Country

A Novel

by Gaël Faye

Price: \$25.00(Hardcover)

Published: June 05, 2018

★★★★★

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Already an international sensation and prize-winning bestseller in France, an evocative coming-of-age story of a young boy, a lost childhood and a shattered homeland. 'I was born with this story. It ran in my blood. I belonged to it.' Burundi, 1992. For ten-year-old Gabriel, life in his comfortable expatriate neighborhood of Bujumbura with his French father, Rwandan mother and little sister Ana, is something close to paradise. These are carefree days of laughter and adventure - sneaking Supermatch cigarettes and gorging on stolen mangoes - as he and his mischievous gang of friends transform their tiny cul-de-sac into their kingdom. But dark clouds are gathering over this small country, and soon their peaceful existence will shatter when Burundi, and neighboring Rwanda, are brutally hit by civil war and genocide. A novel of extraordinary power and beauty, *Small Country* describes an end of innocence as seen through the eyes of a child caught in the maelstrom of history. Shot through with shadows and light, tragedy and humor, it is a stirring tribute not only to a dark chapter in Africa's past, but also to the bright days that preceded it.

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About The Author

Gaël Faye

Gaël Faye was born in 1982 in Burundi to a French father and Rwandan mother. In 1995, after the outbreak of the civil war and the Rwandan genocide, the family moved to France. An author, songwriter and hip-hop artist, he released his first solo album, *Pili Pili sur un croissant au beurre*, in 2013. *Small Country* is his first novel. A bestseller in France, it has been awarded numerous literary prizes, among them the Prix Goncourt des Lycéens, and is being published in thirty countries worldwide. He lives in Paris.

Release Info

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What We Say

French hip-hop star Gaël Faye makes a terrific debut with his autobiographical novel "Small Country." With charm and wit, it captures the world of an impressionistic, sensitive and smart ten year old boy. It's 1992 in Burundi and Gabriel is growing up with his little sister, a French father and a Rwandan mother. Goofing around with friends, shifting alliances as a new kid joins the gang, sensing and then seeing the fractures in the marriage of his parents, swimming, fishing, sneaking a drink...it's familiar territory given a fresh perspective by the setting and Faye's talent. Then dark clouds appear on the horizon. Gabriel and his little sister start to notice the difference between types of people, prompted by the world around him. Is that guy a

Tutsi? Oh, that woman is Hutu, they whisper to each other, not really meaning anything by it. But the adults notice and care. Indeed even their friends care, like Gabriel's best pal Gino, who becomes more and more fascinated with the guns and violence all around them. Tensions erupt into fights, dark nights are peppered with gunfire, the neighboring country of Rwanda is gripped by turmoil and soon Burundi is as well. This slide from the monumental concerns of childhood (a trip to a pool, a stolen bike) to war and coups and even genocide happens with such tragic ease that the reader might look up and wonder who turned off all the lights. Maybe this is the one book Faye was meant to write.; one gem is plenty for anyone and we can always listen to his music. (I just downloaded an EP.) Yet with his sharp eye and gift for detail, I doubt it. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

“Unforgettable... Gaël Faye’s talent is breathtaking; no country that can give the world a writer like him should be ever be called small.” - Imbolo Mbue, author of *Behold the Dreamers*

“An evocative portrait of what it means to lose one’s freedom and innocence... He is a writer of great promise and grace.” - Chigozie Obioma, author of *The Fishermen*

“Personal and intimate... Gaël Faye has evoked the darkest pages of contemporary Africa without tipping into pathos.” - Alain Mabanckou, author of *Broken Glass*

“The death of innocence seen through the eyes of Gabriel, our beguiling 11-year-old narrator, is at the heart of this gorgeous first novel... Faye eloquently speaks to the untenable choices, among love of country, family, or survival, that victims in conflict zones are forced to make.” -- *Library Journal*

“Gaël Faye is a revelation. *Small Country* is a luminous and poignant novel about childhood, war, exile and identity... this is literature at its most powerful.” - *Le Parisien Magazine*

“This beautiful coming-of-age novel expresses a harrowing yearning for kindness and harmony. The result is a vision of the world - not political, but poetic - that attempts a balancing act between both horror and wonder.” - *Le Figaro*

"In the summer months, there are two categories of books: those we take on holiday and leave behind in the sand, and those that make their mark on us for life. *Small Country* by Gaël Faye is firmly part of the latter category" - *Le Matin Dimanche*

“A literary force to be reckoned with.” - *Le Point*

“Subtle and powerful.” - *Elle*

"Magnificent" - *Le Parisien*

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