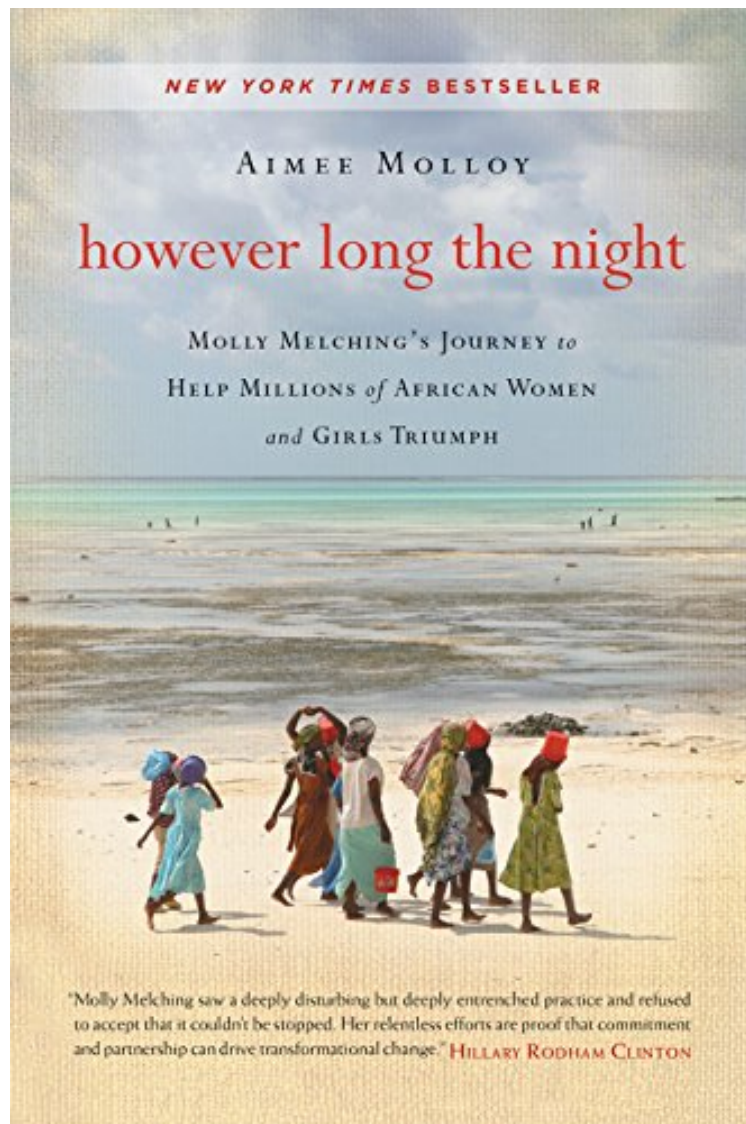


[FREE] *However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph*

However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph

Aimee Molloy

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Aimee Molloy : However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph*:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Engaging and uplifting

By Samir Sobhy Molly Melching will be counted as one of those important world women whose life and work made a great difference in improving the living conditions and future of millions of people. She is comparable to Mary Curie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Helen Keller, etc. Her commitment, dedication, determination, and relentlessness allowed her to face and overcome various sorts of odds and obstacles in order to secure better life and health to Senegalese girls and women, then extend the target to other African girls and women. Hers, is not only a success story of commitment and courage, but also of love for her fellow-humans. It is because of her care for Senegal and its population, a country and a people she immediately fell in love with on her arrival, that she dedicated her life to serve them.

Aimee Molloy's book succeeds remarkably in conveying the outstanding personality and character of Molly Melching, along with her sensitive feelings, ambitions, effervescence, wit, humor, courage, determination, and fearlessness! As mentioned in the review by the Publishers Weekly, the book reads like an engaging novel, thanks to the very clever reconstruction by Molloy of thoughts and conversations among the main 'protagonists' of Melching's 'journey', and the events which took place during her young years as a child then a teenager, and after her arrival in Senegal in the 70s.

Another remarkable feature of the book is Molloy's amazingly clear understanding of Senegalese culture, traditions, sensitivities, and taboos. It didn't take her more than a year to reach such clear vision of a country and a society so drastically different from her own. Obviously, Melching must have been the one who helped to introduce her to the complexity and subtlety of African/Senegalese culture.

When most of world news and information - particularly those coming from developing countries - tend to throw one into depressing and dark moods, Molloy's touching and engaging book is uplifting and full of hope. By reading it we become hopeful and confident that the courage and hard work of just a few key people at the right time could change the world into a better place.

Fortunately, for several years now Molly Melching's work, as well as that of "Tostan", the NGO she created, have been receiving the recognition they deserve in various forms. Aimee Molloy's book is the latest manifestation of this wide recognition, and I am sure, will be followed by others.

Finally, in addition to its substance, the book has an attractive and alluring front and back covers, with elegant design and wonderful photographs.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Definitely worth the read

By kstewart424 I was quite shocked by how much I enjoyed this book. I usually don't go for biography or book about Africa, but this one called to me and I read it. I think it is a book everyone should read at least once in their life.

The story follows the life of Molly Melching and how she brought the knowledge of human rights to numerous villages throughout rural Senegal. Molly is originally from the U.S. and moved to Africa in her early twenties. She stayed because of how welcome and at home she felt, something she had never found anywhere else. After studying and working as a translator, she became obsessed with how to get education into the rural areas of Senegal where it was gravely needed to help maintain and encourage the improvement projects that were being put in place by NGOs (Non-Governmental Organization). She had several incarnations of organizations before founding Tostan - primarily setting up a local community center through the local Peace Corps then working with her (then) husband to establish a local education program for the village of Saam Njaay. Between these two organizations, she developed a teaching model that met the needs and cultural traditions of the rural community, allowing them access to basic information such as reading, writing, and hygiene.

When she finally broke out on her own and developed Tostan, she used what she had learned to develop an educational program that brought knowledge to the participants. Not only did the program teach reading and writing, but they were taught in connections with core ideas set up in modules - hygiene, basic health, leadership skills, and project development. After gaining success, she was prompted by receipt of funding to include a module on human rights and women's health, including the dangers of FGC (female genital cutting) which was a widespread practice in Senegal. This last module was developed and presented with great care to be non-judgement and non-confrontational, simply presenting information that described the rights of women as outlined by the United Nations and gave the women information on their bodies they greatly wanted to know.

This module had an unexpected result. As the women grew in their belief in their rights and themselves, the communities started to change as women demanded their rights. The most stunning result was the decision by different villages to discontinue FGC, which caused anger and dismay with other villages. This led to the discovery of social norm connectivity and how members of a group will decide together.

As an educator and a woman, I found this book highly informative. Not only did I get an overview of life in Senegal, but I learned more about my rights as a woman and innovative educational practices I hope to someday use in my classroom. I thought it did a wonderful job of not only discussing Molly's life, but also the different things she and her assistants learned over the years and the amazing stories shared by the brave women and men in Senegal who are attempting to bring an end to FGC in the country, and to spread the knowledge across borders.

I highly recommend this book to everyone, but especially women and educators. It also gives you a glimpse into a life we cannot imagine in the United States and is a great way to learn about a mindset completely foreign to us. It definitely ranks on my "needs to be read" list for someone who will take the time to appreciate what they can learn from it.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A very moving story about women and human rights.

By Customer It's amazing to me that one woman could initiate such a radical change in basic human rights, specifically the rights of women. Honestly, I wasn't sure what to expect. I'd never read anything about female cutting. It was hard for me as an American woman to believe that this practice was even taking place in my lifetime. I recommend this book to women as well as men. It's a

story of perseverance, empowerment, and basic human rights.

In *However Long the Night*, Aimee Molloy tells the unlikely and inspiring story of Molly Melching, an American woman whose experience as an exchange student in Senegal led her to found Tostan and dedicate almost four decades of her life to the girls and women of Africa. This moving biography details Melching's beginnings at the University of Dakar and follows her journey of 40 years in Africa, where she became a social entrepreneur and one of humanity's strongest voices for the rights of girls and women. Inspirational and beautifully written, *However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph* is a passionate entreaty for all global citizens. This book is published in partnership with the Skoll Foundation, dedicated to accelerating innovations from organizations like Tostan that address the world's most pressing problems.

Molly Melching saw a deeply disturbing but deeply entrenched practice and refused to accept that it couldn't be stopped. Her relentless efforts are proof that commitment and partnership can drive transformational change. (Hillary Rodham Clinton) Melching's incredible journey from Illinois to Africa, from graduate student to great humanitarian, is paralleled by the journey of the countless women touched by her work: a journey to understanding, empowerment and human dignity. (Lisa See, bestselling author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*) The story of Molly Melching and Tostan proves that determined and loving individuals can accomplish the seemingly impossible--abandonment of a harmful tradition that is thousands of years old. (Former President Jimmy Carter) There is no way to overestimate the gift that Tostan and its leader, Molly Melching, have given to the world. The amount of suffering they have alleviated is beyond anything we can gauge. What a story, what a power, and what a blessing. (Marianne Williamson, New York Times bestselling author) Molloy offers a moving account of one woman's struggle to empower African women and challenge tradition. Reading like a novel, this book demonstrates the power of education and grassroots organizing. (Publishers Weekly) Melching's transformation from Midwestern college graduate to thrill-seeking international crusader makes for compelling reading. Molloy has a reporter's knack for selecting and arranging the most salient details of Melching's experiences, and the resulting story is moving and memorable. Uplifting and inspirational. (Kirkus) This is the story of an extraordinary woman: Molly Melching. Molly has worked in Senegalese communities to improve lives of the country's poorest people. . . . This book reinforced my belief that developing communities already have the potential to spark change that will lead to better lives for themselves and their families. (Melinda Gates) From the Back Cover The story of how one of the "most powerful women in women's rights" (Forbes) is paving the way to a world with human dignity for all. *However Long the Night* is the extraordinary story of one woman's determination to create a movement toward change, and a better future, for millions of girls and women across Africa. Molly Melching grew up in the Midwest but was called to explore the world outside her hometown when she arrived in Senegal in 1974. There, she quickly grew invested in the fate of the Senegalese women she met. Based on her experiences living in a remote African village, she founded Tostan, an organization dedicated to empowering African communities by using democracy and human-rights-based education to promote relationships built upon dignity, equality, and respect. She forever changed her life and the lives of those touched by Tostan. Unlike many Western organizations that have tried to transform various African cultures from the outside, Melching, who was named as one of the "150 women who shake the world" by *Newsweek* and *Daily Beast*, understands that true change comes only from within. Tostan's groundbreaking strategies have led to better education for the women of rural Africa, improved health care, a decrease in child/forced marriage, and declarations by thousands of African communities to abandon the centuries-old practice of female genital cutting. *However Long the Night* brings together Melching's riveting personal journey with the stories of the Senegalese women and men who found the courage to lead this movement. This book is a testament to the fact that the connections between women can lead to a better world. About the Author Aimee Molloy has collaborated on seven books, including Maziar Bahari's *Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival* and Pam Cope's *Jantsen's Gift: A True Story of Grief, Rescue, and Grace*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and daughter.