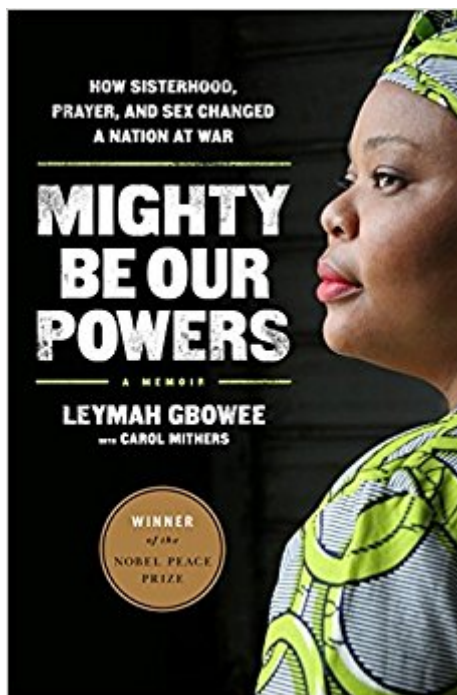




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# Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, And Sex Changed A Nation At War



## Synopsis

"WINNER OF THE 2011 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE" In a time of death and terror, Leymah Gbowee brought Liberia's women together and together they led a nation to peace. "As a young woman, Leymah Gbowee was broken by the Liberian civil war, a brutal conflict that tore apart her life and claimed the lives of countless relatives and friends. Years of fighting destroyed her country and shattered Gbowee's girlhood hopes and dreams. As a young mother trapped in a nightmare of domestic abuse, she found the courage to turn her bitterness into action, propelled by her realization that it is women who suffer most during conflicts and that the power of women working together can create an unstoppable force. In 2003, the passionate and charismatic Gbowee helped organize and then led the Liberian Mass Action for Peace, a coalition of Christian and Muslim women who sat in public protest, confronting Liberia's ruthless president and rebel warlords, and even held a sex strike. With an army of women, Gbowee helped lead her nation to peace in the process emerging as an international leader who changed history. "Mighty Be Our Powers" is the gripping chronicle of a journey from hopelessness to empowerment that will touch all who dream of a better world."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women". "...a beautifully written narrative." "Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1984" "Mighty Be Our Powers" reminds us that even in the worst of times, humanity's best can shine through." "Sheryl

Sandberg, COO Facebook: ""One of the most inspirational and powerful books I've ever read. The story of one woman's struggle against the worst and what she can teach all of us about finding the courage and strength to change the world." "Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III Pastor, The Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York: ""An engrossing, fluently written story that anyone who cares about changing the world has to read." "Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2011: ""Leymah bore witness to the worst of humanity and helped bring Liberia out of the dark. Her memoir is a captivating narrative that will stand in history as testament to the power of women, faith and the spirit of our great country" STARRED" Kirkus Review: ""Searing war-torn memories from a visionary African peacekeeper and women's-rights activist....Gbowee stands responsible for what began as a tireless vocal demonstration and soon escalated to a standoff on the Presidential Mansion steps demanding peace. This course of action facilitated the war's end in 2003 and the election of Africa's first female president, and ended the author's personal struggles with alcohol. With commanding charity, Gbowee celebrates Liberia's eight years of peace and continues teaching young women about the power of activism. A patriotic chronicle reverberant with valor and perseverance."

Leymah Gbowee is the winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. She is also the "Newsweek" and "The Daily Beast"'s Africa columnist. As war ravaged Liberia, Leymah Gbowee realized it is women who bear the greatest burden in prolonged conflicts. She began organizing Christian and Muslim women to demonstrate together, founding Liberian Mass Action for Peace and launching protests and a sex strike. Gbowee's part in helping to oust Charles Taylor was featured in the documentary "Pray the Devil Back to Hell." Gbowee is a single mother of six, including one adopted daughter, and is based in Accra, Ghana, where she is the cofounder and executive director of the Women Peace and Security Network-Africa. Carol Mithers is a Los Angeles-based journalist and book author. Her work has appeared in a wide variety of national publications.

On October 7, 2011, Leymah Gbowee was one of 3 women awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. This book is her story. She has written a revealing and seemingly uncensored tale of her country (Liberia), her personal doubts, failures and struggles in finding, defining and implementing her goals, and the impact she and other women of like mind and courage have had on showing women throughout Africa how to be major influences in bringing peace and reconciliation to their war ravaged countries. When one considers the impossible setting in which this woman insisted on developing and growing her movement, her success in influencing peace in Liberia is nothing short

of miraculous. If you know of Africa, read her story. If you know little of Africa, definitely read it. If you are a woman, read her story. If you are a man, definitely read it.

In a nation marred by violence, poverty and hopelessness, it would have been easy for Leymah Gbowee to just go about her days like so many others who were just trying to survive. A single mother of 4 and victim of an abusive relationship, she definitely had reasons to feel sorry for herself, but she does not do this. Liberia was in the midst of an intractable civil war. Child soldiers, rape and murder were prevalent and many people were displaced from their homes. Despite her personal problems, Leymah launches a movement uniting Liberian women from various tribes, ethnic groups, classes and religions to demand an end to the fighting. The author was fortunate in that she learned about and became a part of groups that were already established, but she uses the sheer force of her will to expand the reach of these groups and to inspire her countrywomen to sit in and march for peace. It was not easy, and those brave women risked their very lives defying Charles Taylor and the rebel fighters. They were just tired of living in fear and watching their children suffer. They wore white and carried signs demanding an end to the fighting, and became known as "The Peace Women." The story is interesting on many levels. Not only is it a story about women uniting for the greater good, but it's also a story about a young woman's struggle to create a better life for her family. It's about the sacrifices she made, and those made by her family, so that she could do the work that she felt called to do for the people of Liberia. She sent her children to live in Ghana under the care of an older sister, and missed them terribly, but at least they were safe. And there are no fairytale endings in this story. There are triumphs achieved after hard work along with a fair amount of grief, heartache and disappointment.

From the first lines written in the preface it's clear that this book is going to take you on an emotional journey that changed the face of an entire nation...and it doesn't disappoint. I was overwhelmed at the experiences shared in this story and the incredible strength of Leymah (and all the women of Liberia) to effect meaningful change in a war-torn country. Perhaps her passion, courage, and commitment will spill beyond her homeland and permeate the hearts of people around the world...this planet would be a VERY different place.

An inspiring, motivating, and uplifting book recounting some of Liberia's worst and most troubling days. Leymah who I am honored to call friend, represents a brave and supremely confident woman who through her miraculous personal power and remarkable ability simply to survive leads us all to

a level of joyous love and understanding simply by reading her words. In her work, *MIGHTY BE OUR POWERS*, Leymah begins with first, suffering, second facing tragedy and disasters, and finally by marshalling her strength of will, outstanding intelligence, overwhelming ability to lead and inspire others, and stand firm while others waver shows how one single woman formed a network of like-minded friends and put an end to dictatorship and oppression and led her homeland, Liberia, into the dawn of a new day of freedom and safety.

Hearing about this book on NPR led me to choose it for our book club. Now that I've finished it, I can't wait to discuss it with my friends. It was amazing to me, to get to the end of the book and realize that the author is my age (not yet 40). I felt like she'd lived three lifetimes ... and as though I'd lived them with her. I especially appreciate how she is vulnerable and forthcoming with her own personal "failures", and how she does not forget to include humor in her story. Memoirs are my favorite kind of book. This is a great one. I take it as a personal challenge - never sit back and let life happen. Make life deal with YOU.

One of my favorite books. I recommend it to anyone who is looking to learn more about global feminisms or who just wants to read an inspiring and powerful autobiography. Gbowee's story will have you in tears at times, and have you rooting for her and the movement she began to succeed. The way she lays out her own story is rich, insightful, and encourages us to take a look at the relationships and circumstances in our own lives that may be holding us back from realizing our full potential.

I don't think Western cultures can truly understand the horror, rival tribal hatred and on-going suffering experienced by the author. This is Ms. Gbowee's story....no one else's story....and that is where it falls short. I couldn't understand why there was hatred, why one group was so intent on killing another. That the evil was there, there is no doubt. I was impressed with Ms. Gbowee's determination to bring together the women and form a peace movement. She gave up everything: home, family, security to make peace work.

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