

READER'S GUIDE

I Lived To Tell The World

by Elizabeth Mehren

1. So many of the survivors in this book have made it their business to help other newcomers to the United States. Who are the immigrants or who assists refugees in your community? What are the organizations that seek to help newcomers to your region?
2. Discuss the phrase “intimate genocide.” What would you do if you were ordered by your government to kill your neighbor--or your spouse?
3. Rwandan genocide survivor Emmanuel Turaturanye makes a distinction between forgiveness and reconciliation. What do you see as the difference--or the overlap--between these two ideas? Having lost nearly all his family to the genocide, Emmanuel Turaturanye nonetheless found it in his heart to invite the killers of his family and others from his village to his wedding. What level of forgiveness do you think this would require?
4. What is the United Nations’ definition of the crime of genocide? How has this crime been punished in the past, and how do you believe it should (or should not) be punished?
5. What it would be like to live in an apartment with no running water, no electricity and no glass in the windows.
6. Many of the men and women profiled in this book speculate about why these atrocities continue, even into the 21st century? What are your thoughts on this question?