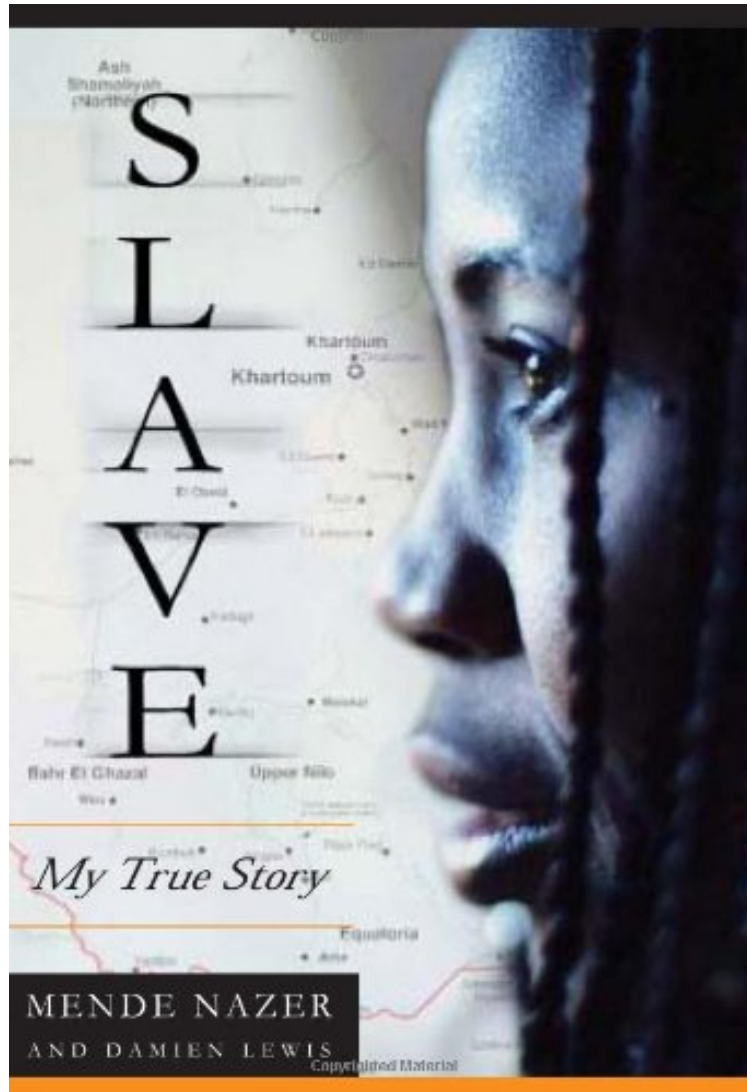


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## Slave: My True Story

*Mende Nazer, Damien Lewis, Damien Lewis*  
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#363178 in Books Nazer, Mende/ Lewis, Damien 2005-04-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .80 #File Name: 1586483188368 pages | File size: 46.Mb

**Mende Nazer, Damien Lewis, Damien Lewis : Slave: My True Story** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slave: My True Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach. By MysticubI made the unfortunate mistake of buying this book used, and I ended up receiving a copy that had been written in on many of the pages, with words underlined and notes written in the margins. Except for that, the only thing I disliked about this book is the fact that it started on the day of the raid, and then went back in time to several years before the raid. I much prefer my stories to be told chronologically, and find it rather annoying when authors sucker people into continuing to read by putting a major, traumatic event first only to go back and explain the events leading up to it. That being said,

this is an amazing story. It's incredibly hard to believe things like this still go on either unnoticed or ignored. I finished this in one day and about half the night--I just couldn't put it down. The way Mende's native culture is described is very vivid, and for me it was easy to imagine and feel everything the Nuba people were. The fact that her childhood seemed so carefree and happy made the raid all the more traumatizing. Just as a forewarning to those of you who haven't read it: there are parts in the story that are VERY graphic, and it includes some rather controversial topics (like circumcision and very young girls getting engaged/married). There are instances of rape and other appalling abuse. This is not a book for those who can't handle reading about that sort of thing. The amount of detail there is makes it difficult to read (emotionally). It's difficult to articulate how profound this story is without spoiling it. Anyone who hasn't read it should.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Read About Sudan  
By ShootingStarz  
This book is an interesting read about existing black tribes in Sudan, their Arab conquerors, and the conflict/war/genocide in Sudan. This book is a true story about Mende Nazer, who was captured as a young girl and sold as a slave to the Arabs in Sudan, and later London. Some Sudanese claim her story is false and that she was never a slave. They say she was free to come and go as she pleased and that she was paid. When she was transported to London, she was working for the family of a Sudanese Diplomat. Therefore, it is easy to see why some people refute her claims. However, I've read books about black tribes all over Sudan and they all have the same story about how the Arabs and the Sudanese government raided their villages. Considering these tribes do not speak the same language, I tend to believe what happened to them. It is hard to dismiss it as mere coincidence. Mende is an intelligent girl who is loved by her family. When the Arabs raid her Nuba village, she is kidnapped, raped, and sold into slavery to a family in Khartoum. They beat her brutally over the smallest infractions, like playing in the sprinklers. All these beatings eventually cause her some health problems later in life. When she is sold to her master's sister in London (the diplomat's wife), she is treated better and is not beaten, but she is kept as a prisoner in the home and is worked even harder than she was in Sudan, barely having time to sleep. She is occasionally allowed out alone for short distances. One day, when her master and her family are visiting Sudan, she walks around looking for a black, Nuba, Sudanese to help her escape. She finds someone who listens to her story and puts her in touch with a fellow Nuba in London. They help her escape. Eventually, a man named Damien Lewis (co-author of this book) helps her with her asylum claim in London. I gave this book 3 stars for a few reasons. The main reason is that the writing and editing was so ridiculously horrible that it made the book hard to read. Supposedly, Nazer dictated the book and Lewis wrote it. He's co-authored other books where he's done a great job, so I don't understand why he failed here. Second, Mende comes off as a spoiled, whining child/adult at times (I'm referring to the times before and after her enslavement, not during.) Third, Mende repeatedly talks about how she cannot return to Sudan or to her village, but never actually bothers to explain why. I'd think this would be important considering the number of times she mentions she cannot return. Lastly, this has nothing to do with my rating. It is just an FYI. There is a movie based off this book, but I felt that the essence of the book was not included in the movie. Also, many things that happen in the book do not happen in the movie, and vice versa. I can honestly say it is one of the worst adaptations I have ever seen. Therefore, do not think you can know Mende Nazer's story simply by watching the movie.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heart breaking  
By CW  
This story broke my heart. I have never heard a story as sad as this one and it was true. It is horrible to see black people- African- people still suffer from atrocities to this day and time. I found myself outraged toward the Arabic family who held her and those who witness this repulsive behavior but thought it was okay as long as he/she benefited from it, as I read through the chapters. I am pretty sure if Koran had stated that it was not okay to keep slaves thus deeply religious Arabic family would not think it was okay to treat this human being as they did. The Journalist who composed this story has done a good job. The language is very effective and he really captures the emotions and feelings rather than the brutalities. I think that is what made it very enjoyable to read. I was hoping in the end all those who were involved would end up in the jail. Yet to my disappointment that did not happen.

Mende Nazer lost her childhood at age twelve, when she was sold into slavery. It all began one horrific night in 1993, when Arab raiders swept through her Nuba village, murdering the adults and rounding up thirty-one children, including Mende. Mende was sold to a wealthy Arab family who lived in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum. So began her dark years of enslavement. Her Arab owners called her "Yebit," or "black slave." She called them "master." She was subjected to appalling physical, sexual, and mental abuse. She slept in a shed and ate the family leftovers like a dog. She had no rights, no freedom, and no life of her own. Normally, Mende's story never would have come to light. But seven years after she was seized and sold into slavery, she was sent to work for another master—a diplomat working in the United Kingdom. In London, she managed to make contact with other Sudanese, who took pity on her. In September 2000, she made a dramatic break for freedom. *Slave* is a story almost beyond belief. It depicts the strength and dignity of the Nuba tribe. It recounts the savage way in which the Nuba and their ancient culture are being destroyed by a secret modern-day trade in slaves. Most of all, it is a remarkable testimony to one young woman's unbreakable spirit and tremendous courage.

From Publishers Weekly  
Born into the Karko tribe in the Nuba mountains of northern Sudan, Nazer has written a

straightforward, harrowing memoir that's a sobering reminder that slavery still needs to be stamped out. The first, substantial section of the book concentrates on Nazer's idyllic childhood, made all the more poignant for the misery readers know is to come. Nazer is presented as intelligent and headstrong, and her people as peaceful, generous and kind. In 1994, around age 12 (the Nuba do not keep birth records), Nazer was snatched by Arab raiders, raped and shipped to the nation's capital, Khartoum, where she was installed as a maid for a wealthy suburban family. (For readers expecting her fate to include a grimy factory or barren field, the domesticity of her prison comes as a shock.) To Nazer, the modern landscape of Khartoum could not possibly have been more alien; after all, she had never seen even a spoon, a mirror or a sink, much less a telephone or television set. Nazer's urbane tormentors—mostly the pampered housewife—beat her frequently and dehumanized her in dozens of ways. They were affluent, petty and calculatedly cruel, all in the name of "keeping up appearances." The contrast between Nazer's pleasant but "primitive" early life and the horrors she experienced in Khartoum could hardly be more stark; it's an object lesson in the sometimes dehumanizing power of progress and creature comforts. After seven years, Nazer was sent to work in the U.K., where she contacted other Sudanese and eventually escaped to freedom. Her book is a profound meditation on the human ability to survive virtually any circumstances. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist\*Starred \* The shock of this title is that it refers to what is happening right now, in Sudan, Africa, and also in the West. Ten years ago, when Mende Nazer was about 12 years old, she was captured in an Arab raid on her remote Nuba village, and, with about 30 other black Muslim children, she was sold into slavery. For eight years, she toiled as a domestic worker for a wealthy family in Khartoum, beaten and abused by her vicious owners, who then sent her to work for a relative in London, an important Sudanese diplomat. With only broken English and no friends, she remained locked up and isolated until finally she managed to escape and tell her story. And it doesn't end there: the U.K. refused her asylum ("Slavery is not persecution"). Now in 2003, the British government has given in to the global pressure of human-rights groups and allowed her to stay. Journalist Lewis helped her escape, and he spent months interviewing her. He tells her story in a clear, compelling, first-person narrative that conveys her young voice with powerful authenticity. Her memories of childhood in her Nuba village are idyllic (except for her brutal circumcision, described in graphic detail). But the core of the book is her daily labor and abuse as a house slave. The details are unforgettable, capturing both the innocence of the child and the world-weariness of one who has endured the worst. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Slave constitutes an act of tremendous courage. A solitary and profoundly moving voice emerging from the most silenced of quarters." -- Monica Ali, author of Brick Lane "Harrowing... [Nazer] describes being sold into servitude...a fate shared by more than 11,000 people each year in Sudan alone." -- People Magazine a story of the triumph of the human spirit against oppressing odds. -- KLIATT, July 2005