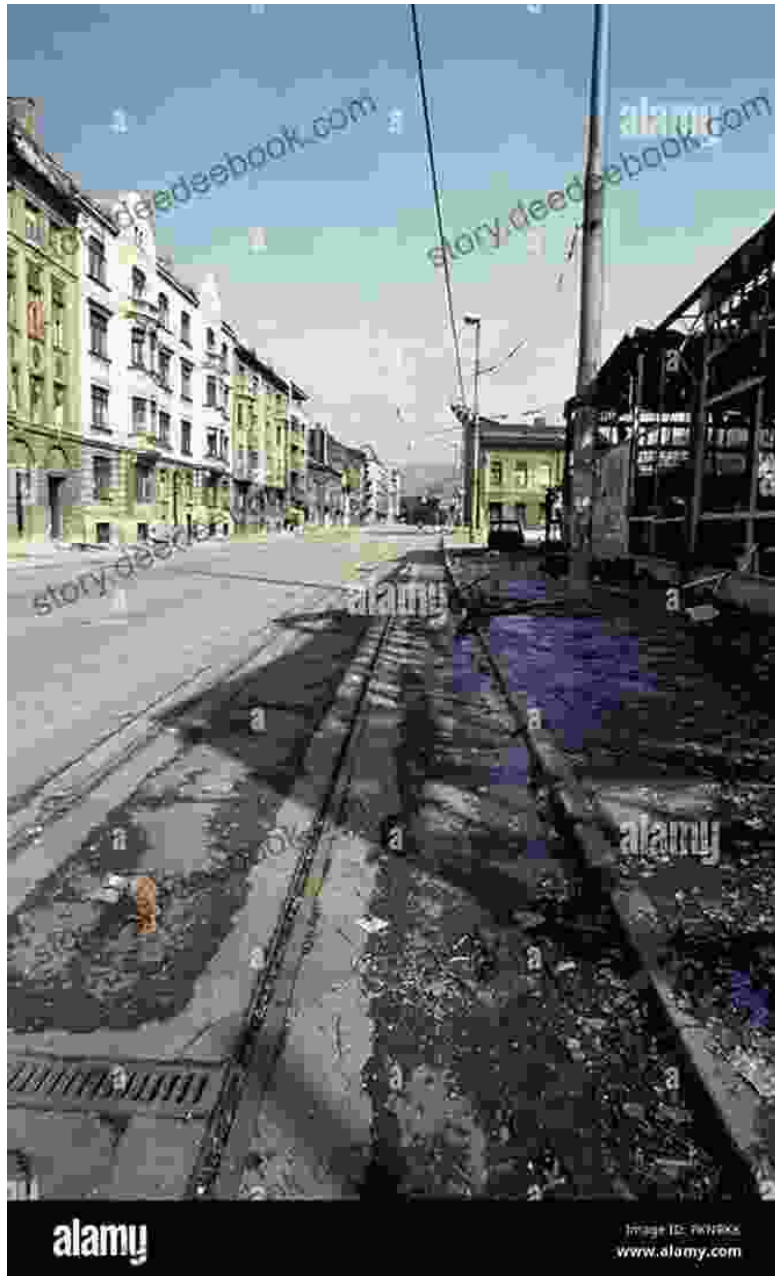


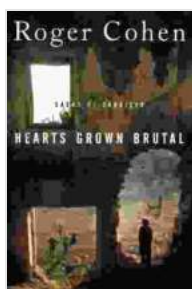
Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo, a City Torn Apart



In the annals of human history, certain cities have become synonymous with suffering and resilience, their names forever etched in the collective memory as symbols of war and its devastating toll. Sarajevo, the capital of

Bosnia and Herzegovina, is one such city, its story a haunting testament to the brutality of conflict and the indomitable spirit of its people.

From 1992 to 1996, Sarajevo endured a grueling siege by Bosnian Serb forces, becoming one of the longest and most atrocious sieges in modern history. The city was subjected to relentless shelling, mortar attacks, and sniper fire, leaving countless lives shattered and the fabric of society torn apart.



Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo by Roger Cohen

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 4001 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 825 pages



The Siege of Sarajevo

The siege of Sarajevo began on April 6, 1992, following the collapse of Yugoslavia and the outbreak of civil war in Bosnia. Bosnian Serb forces, backed by the Yugoslav People's Army, surrounded the city, cutting off all access to food, water, electricity, and medical supplies.

For over four years, Sarajevo became a battleground, its population trapped and terrorized. Civilians were targeted indiscriminately, with snipers firing from surrounding hillsides, shelling reducing neighborhoods to rubble, and mass executions becoming commonplace.

Despite the relentless bombardment, the people of Sarajevo refused to succumb to despair. They organized soup kitchens and medical centers, repaired damaged buildings, and maintained a semblance of normalcy amidst the chaos. The city's cultural institutions, including the Sarajevo Film Festival and the National Theater, continued to operate, providing a vital lifeline of hope and defiance.

The Scars of War

The siege of Sarajevo left an indelible mark on the city and its people. The physical destruction was immense, with over 3,500 buildings damaged or destroyed. The human cost was even greater, with an estimated 11,000 people killed and thousands more injured.

In the aftermath of the war, Sarajevo embarked on a long and arduous process of reconstruction and reconciliation. The city's buildings have been painstakingly restored, and new landmarks have emerged, such as the War Childhood Museum and the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial Center.

However, the scars of war run deeper than the physical damage. The siege has left a lasting legacy of trauma, division, and mistrust. Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a deeply divided country, with ongoing tensions between Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats.

Stories of Resilience

Amidst the darkness of war, there were also glimmers of hope and resilience in Sarajevo. The city's residents forged unbreakable bonds, sharing food, shelter, and support in the face of adversity.

One such story is that of Sejla Kamerić, a young woman who helped to save hundreds of children during the siege. With her parents and brother killed in the fighting, Sejla became a caretaker for 60 orphans, providing them with food, shelter, and a sense of family.

Another story is that of Adila Hrustić, a single mother who lost her husband and two children in the siege. Despite her overwhelming grief, Adila found the strength to establish the Sarajevo Neighborhood Mothers, an organization that provides support to women and families affected by war.

The Power of Storytelling

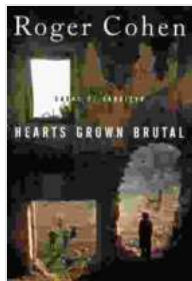
The stories of Sarajevo's survivors are a powerful reminder of the human capacity for resilience and compassion. They serve as a testament to the transformative power of storytelling, which can bridge divides, heal wounds, and inspire hope.

In recent years, there has been a growing body of literature and film that explores the experiences of Sarajevo during the siege. Works such as the novel "The Cellist of Sarajevo" by Steven Galloway and the film "No Man's Land" by Danis Tanović have brought the city's story to a wider audience.

Sarajevo, once a vibrant and cosmopolitan city, was brutally scarred by the siege. However, the city's indomitable spirit has prevailed, as its people have rebuilt their lives and worked towards reconciliation.

The stories of Sarajevo's survivors are a reminder that even in the darkest of times, hope can endure. They are a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of storytelling to heal and inspire.

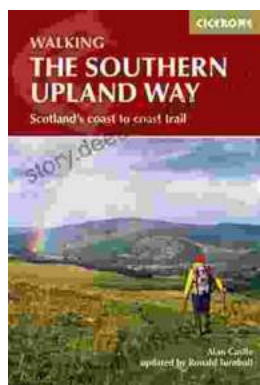
The legacy of Sarajevo serves as a warning against the horrors of war and a beacon of hope for those who seek to build a more just and peaceful world.



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