

Ishmael Beah

Quotes

War, Thinking, Children, People, Kids, Heart, Moon, Believe, Night, Safety, Quiet, Radiance, Sky, Childhood, Journey, School, Morning, Views, Moving, Trusting Each Other

In the sky there are always answers and explanations for everything: every pain, every suffering, joy and confusion.

~Ishmael Beah

My childhood had gone by without my knowing, and it seemed as if my heart had frozen.

~Ishmael Beah

Some nights the sky wept stars that quickly floated and disappeared into the darkness before our wishes could meet them.

~Ishmael Beah

We must strive to be like the moon

~Ishmael Beah

My squad is my family, my gun is my provider, and protector, and my rule is to kill or be killed.

~Ishmael Beah

We all find joy and radiance and a reason to move on even in the most dire of circumstances. Even in chaos and madness, there's still a beauty that comes from just the vibrancy of another human spirit.

~Ishmael Beah

This is one of the consequences of the civil war. People stop trusting each other, and every stranger becomes an enemy.

~Ishmael Beah

This days one must be careful to avoid awakening the pain of another.

~Ishmael Beah

I am always quiet so that I know what to say when I must speak.

~Ishmael Beah

ONE OF THE UNSETTLING THINGS about my journey, mentally, physically, and emotionally, was that I wasn't sure when or where it was going to end.

~Ishmael Beah

I lay in my bed night after night staring at the ceiling and thinking, Why have I survived the war? Why was I the last person in my immediate family to be alive? I didn't know.

~Ishmael Beah

...children have the resilience to outlive their sufferings, if given a chance.

~Ishmael Beah

My teeth became sour as I listened to his story. It was then that I understood why he was quiet all the time.

~Ishmael Beah

The places I come from have such rich languages, such a variety of expression. In Sierra Leone we have about fifteen languages and three dialects. I grew up speaking about seven of them.

~Ishmael Beah

I was still hesitant to let myself let go, because I still believed in the fragility of happiness.

~Ishmael Beah

How many more times do we have to come to terms with death before we find safety?

~Ishmael Beah

In early 1993, when I was 12, I was separated from my family as the Sierra Leone civil war, which began two years earlier, came into my life.

~Ishmael Beah

I believe that there is a God, and coming from an African tradition, I believe also that there are gods.

~Ishmael Beah

I get a chance to observe the moon now, I still see those same images I saw when I was six, and it pleases me to know that that part of my childhood is still embedded in me.

~Ishmael Beah

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