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Laura Lee P. Huttenbach

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Laura Lee P. Huttenbach : The Boy Is Gone: Conversations with a Mau Mau General (Africa in World History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Boy Is Gone: Conversations with a Mau Mau General (Africa in World History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enlightening and nostalgic read By M. Diamond I lived in Nairobi

during the Mau Mau and Kenyatta times and remember the turmoil and frightening reports. Tribal drumming occurred every night, sending messages back and forth across the forest and open landscapes. Huttenbach's well-described interviews with the General have given me an understanding, finally, of that cross-tribal political upheaval and the role of the Mau Mau. It is clear that the General, his wife, and those who worked with him had a huge impact on the political resolution of their beloved country. Through her sensitive retelling Huttenbach also has made the landscape come alive for me, as I remember it, with its aromatic wood fires, abundant flora and generous vistas. Huttenbach proves she is a good historian and fabulous storyteller. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely a Wonderful Book By Edward J Murphy Absolutely a wonderful book about the true story of the good and bad experiences of a very interesting life. The author does such a good job that the "General" does speak to the reader. Perseverance of a man who faced obstacles unimaginable to us. Adventure, history, human spirit, human misery, war, freedom fighters, and more. All that makes this a wonderful book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful contemporary addition to the literature regarding Kenyan culture and ... By H. David Brandt A wonderful contemporary addition to the literature regarding Kenyan culture and recent history. I find complimentary to the older (and less readable) "Facing Mt. Kenya" by Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

A story with the power to change how people view the last years of colonialism in East Africa, *The Boy Is Gone* portrays the struggle for Kenyan independence in the words of a freedom fighter whose life spanned the twentieth century's most dramatic transformations. Born into an impoverished farm family in the Meru Highlands, Japhlet Thambu grew up wearing goatskins and lived to stand before his community dressed for business in a pressed suit, crisp tie, and freshly polished shoes. For most of the last four decades, however, he dressed for work in the primary school classroom and on his lush tea farm. The General, as he came to be called from his leadership of the Mau Mau uprising sixty years ago, narrates his life story in conversation with Laura Lee Huttenbach, a young American who met him while backpacking in Kenya in 2006. A gifted storyteller with a keen appreciation for language and a sense of responsibility as a repository of his people's history, the General talks of his childhood in the voice of a young boy, his fight against the British in the voice of a soldier, and his long life in the voice of shrewd elder. While his life experiences are his alone, his story adds immeasurably to the long history of decolonization as it played out across Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

The important work of recording Kenyan voices is brought to bear in Huttenbach's excellent compilation: the General's retelling of the Mau Mau period is highly vivid and complex. Focus on the Horn