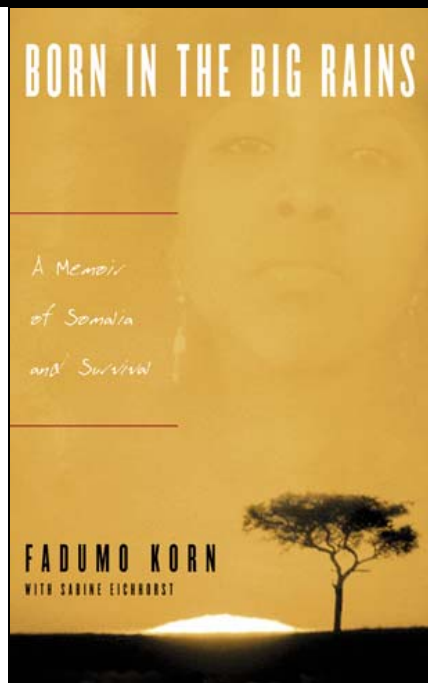


International spokesperson against FGM recounts her long and agonizing path to recovery from life-threatening female circumcision



Born in the Big Rains

A Memoir of Somalia and Survival

Fadumo Korn with Sabine Eichhorst

Translated and Afterword by Tobe Levin

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This powerful memoir by international activist Fadumo Korn portrays both her life-altering transformation after she undergoes a brutal female circumcision at the age of seven and her journey to recovery and empowerment. Korn's deftly crafted tale, *Born in the Big Rains*, is a candid history of a life sculpted by the crippling rheumatism caused by the circumcision and the unexpected path to health that took her into the heart of Mogadishu and then abroad, where she became a spokesperson against female genital mutilation (FGM) for FORWARD-Germany.

“A UN declaration demands the elimination of FGM. Yet the practice continues because it enforces men’s sexual authority but also because women accept it as a cultural marker, a coming of age rite. Fadumo Korn’s story limns the interstices of these social and very human contradictions. It is a courageous, deeply sympathetic, and indispensable text.”
– **Elfriede Jelinek, 2004 Nobel Laureate in Literature**

“FGM is a trauma as much to the psyche as to the body. This riveting memoir lets readers witness every aspect of a complex and triumphantly successful recovery. Fadumo’s past resilience carries over to her inspiring career as a champion of the reproductive rights of girls and women today.” – **Efua Dorkenoo, Order of the British Empire (OBE); Ghanaian women’s health advocate; and founder, The Foundation for Women’s Health, Research, and Development (FORWARD) International**

“UNIFEM and others have supported women's campaigns in countries round the world to change laws, institutions and practices around FGM--along with the economics, politics and deep-seated gender inequalities that allow it to continue. But at the end of the day, what brings truly sustainable change is the courage of individuals like Fadumo Korn to move from survivors to impassioned advocates for justice. This book helps us all to understand how such a transformation is possible.” – **Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

“From the toughness of nomadic life in the steppes of rural Somalia, to the bewilderment of Mogadishu, to full blown social engagement in Europe, a stubborn African girl tries to make sense of gender and class inequalities, clan conflicts, and cultural impositions. Refreshing as the water from the spring and enthralling in its elegant simplicity, this story of survival flows with the lyricism, grace and rhythm of the book.” – **Obioma Nnaemeka, Professor of French, Women’s Studies and African/African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University, Indianapolis; President, African Women Scholars**



FADUMO KORN works for FORWARD- Germany, an organization dedicated to promoting action to stop FGM. She lives with her husband and son in Munich. Writer and radio journalist **SABINE EICHHORST** is the author of *Courage to Defend Yourself: Strategies against Sexual Violence* and *A Long Way Home: Prisoner of Uzbekistan*. **TOBE LEVIN** is a collegiate professor, University of Maryland in Europe and non-resident Fellow at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute, Harvard University.

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