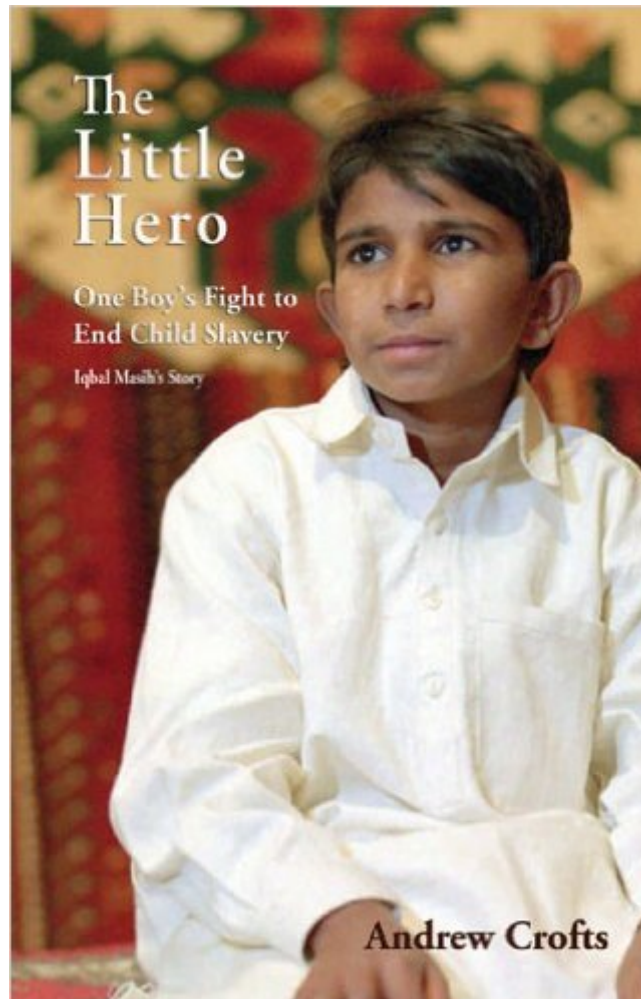


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The Little Hero#151;One Boy's Fight For Freedom: Iqbal Masih's Story



Synopsis

This detailed account of the life and work of Iqbal Masih is an illustration of the plight of children who are enslaved throughout the developing world as well as a compelling biography of a singularly charismatic and intrepid child who used his small voice to tell the stories of those too frightened to speak out. Iqbal Masih was murdered at the age of thirteen, but not before becoming an internationally renowned opponent of child and slave labor. Forced into servitude at a carpet factory in order to pay a family debt, Iqbal, a Pakistani, experienced firsthand the cruelty of an economic system which decimates local communities on one end and spits out consumer products on the other. Mustering the courage to escape the factory, Iqbal found the Bonded Labor Liberation Front and worked to instigate a children's rebellion against companies using child slavery. Rewarding Iqbal for his work, Reebok presented him with the Youth in Action Award in 1995 and offered him a full scholarship to study law at Brandeis University; a scholarship he did not live to accept.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book a couple of years ago and remember every bit of it by heart. I am shocked that in all of this time, there is only one other review about this book. The reason I'd like to see more reviews is due to the subject's content. It is a true story: One that no one would jump at the chance to enjoy thoroughly, but it is so vastly important that we do read it. About the story.... This young boy was offered by his family to work in a carpet factory. Well, there are many of these factories in the Middle East, Pakistan, India, and around the globe which are considered 'underground', as this young child was taken in to work at the age of four. He sat from dawn until dusk beside others his age and of

course older, day after day. These underground carpet factories are run by idiots, employed with impoverished children. At one point, Iqbal Masih, the child the story is about, and yes, this is a true story, tries to escape. But his freedom does not last for much time, as there is so much corruption in a cover-up, connecting even the local police department with these under age, overly abused child workers of back alley factories. Iqbal is shown by his captives to all of those who work in the factory the outcome of what happens when you try to run away or for telling anyone about the carpet making factory. So with great misfortune, little Iqbal endured great hardship of pain and punishment for his little time of freedom. But his freedom from illegal carpet making and for all the others in his position lingers on in Iqbal's mind. The next chance he gets to run again, he makes it and is determined that he, nor any other child, will work under the stressful conditions or under any conditions whatsoever.

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