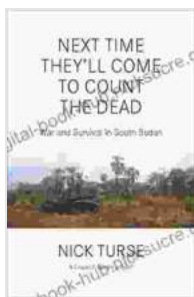


Next Time They'll Come to Count the Dead: A Haunting Tale of Trauma, Resilience, and the Search for Truth

In the tranquil town of Campomaggiore, nestled amidst the rolling hills of southern Italy, a dark secret lingered in the shadows. On September 29, 1943, an unspeakable tragedy unfolded, forever etching itself into the collective memory of the community.

The Massacre of Campomaggiore: A Day of Horrific Violence

As Allied forces advanced through Italy during World War II, Nazi troops retreated, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. On that fateful day, a column of German soldiers entered Campomaggiore, rounding up and indiscriminately killing 15 innocent civilians.



Next Time They'll Come to Count the Dead: War and Survival in South Sudan (Dispatch Books) by Nick Turse

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 470 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 162 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



The victims included children as young as 18 months, elderly women, and a pregnant woman. They were brutally shot, stabbed, and burned alive in their homes and the town's church. The once-peaceful village was transformed into a scene of unspeakable horror.

Silence and Denial: A Long Shadow of Trauma

In the aftermath of the massacre, fear and grief enveloped Campomaggiore. Survivors were traumatized and unable to speak about the atrocities they had witnessed. The townspeople maintained a deafening silence, unwilling to confront the painful past that haunted them.

For decades, the massacre was swept under the carpet, becoming a taboo subject that was whispered about in hushed tones. The survivors carried the burden of their memories alone, isolated by their trauma and the collective denial of their community.

A Journalist's Quest for Truth: Breaking the Silence

In 2003, Italian journalist Giampaolo Musumeci arrived in Campomaggiore on assignment to investigate the town's forgotten history. He encountered a community paralyzed by fear and silence. Undeterred, he began interviewing survivors and meticulously piecing together the fragments of the forgotten tragedy.

Confronting the Past: A Painful Journey of Healing

Through Musumeci's relentless efforts, the survivors of the massacre gradually found the courage to share their stories. One by one, they

recounted the horrors they had endured, each account a haunting reminder of the unspeakable pain and loss they had suffered.

As the truth emerged, the silence that had encased Campomaggiore for so long began to crack. The townspeople, confronted with the undeniable evidence of the massacre, were forced to confront their own complicity in the denial and suppression of the past.

A Memorial to the Victims: Honoring the Dead and the Survivors

In 2013, on the 70th anniversary of the massacre, Campomaggiore finally erected a memorial to the victims. The monument, located in the heart of the town, stands as a solemn reminder of the tragedy and a testament to the resilience and courage of the survivors.

A Legacy of Trauma and Resilience: Moving Forward Together

The massacre of Campomaggiore left an enduring legacy of trauma and resilience in the town. The survivors and their descendants continue to grapple with the effects of the tragedy, but they have also found strength and healing in their shared experience.

Through the collective effort of survivors, community leaders, and journalists like Musumeci, the story of Campomaggiore has been brought to light, serving as a poignant reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of confronting the past.

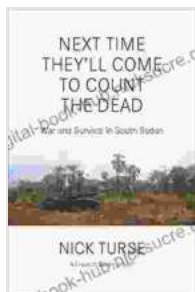
The town's journey from silence to remembrance is a testament to the indomitable spirit of its people. By acknowledging and confronting the

trauma inflicted upon them, they have found a path to healing and reconciliation.

Next Time They'll Come to Count the Dead: A Haunting Tale

Giampaolo Musumeci's groundbreaking book, "Next Time They'll Come to Count the Dead," tells the harrowing tale of the Campomaggiore massacre. Through his meticulous research and poignant interviews, Musumeci exposes the horrors of that tragic day and the long-lasting trauma it inflicted on the community.

The book is a gripping account of human suffering and resilience, shedding light on the hidden stories of war and its aftermath. It serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of remembering history, confronting the past, and finding healing through the collective sharing of experiences.



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