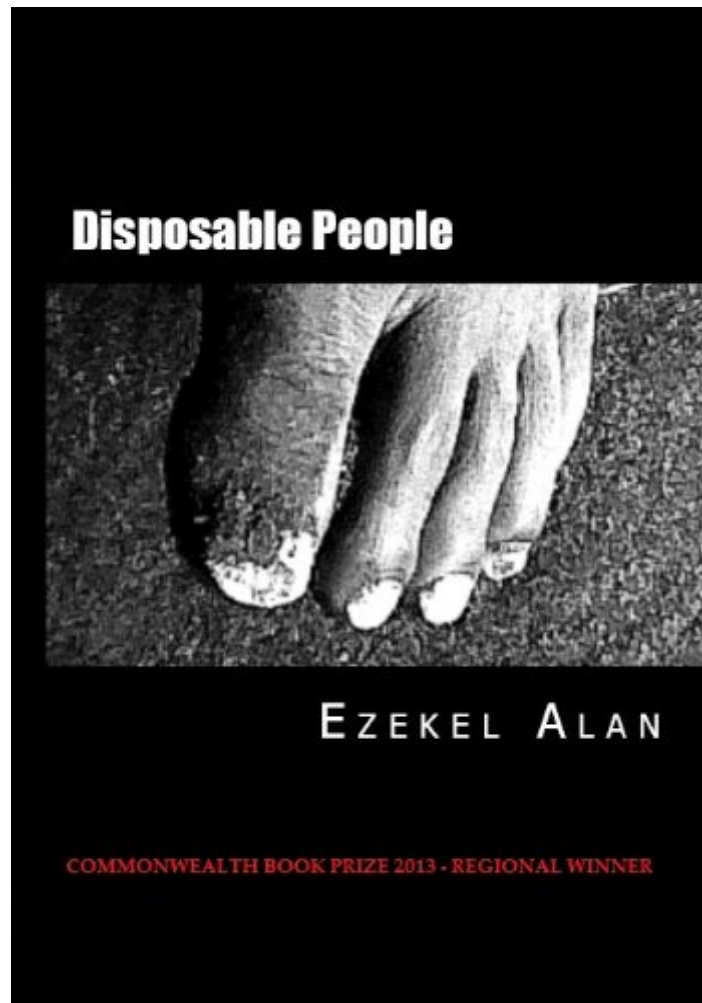


The book was found

Disposable People: Inspired By True Events



Synopsis

FROM THE REVIEW BY THE JAMAICA OBSERVER NEWSPAPER: The pain and passion in this freewheeling text is so palpable that it is hard to regard it as fiction. It reads like a memoir, a record of hurts and darkly humorous short stories woven together with diary entries and line drawings, redolent with clever raunchiness and with language that rivals a text by Anthony Winkler. (It is) a brilliant and often innovative offering that falls less in the realm of the West Indian tradition and more in the way of American postmodernist black humour, reminiscent of the work of Kurt Vonnegut in *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Ezekiel Alan has constructed a masterpiece of searing memories of his childhood in "that hateful f-ing place" in order to come to terms with them, heal himself, and honour those of the poor and victimised - the "disposable people". Ezekel Alan writes with an intensity that astonishes. This is a rousing text, full of energy and venom, and tells multiple stories of 'disposable people' while building an understanding of the lot of Jamaica's poorer children. Alan is brilliant in his analysis of Kenny Lovelace's relationship with his father and in the stories of abuse that most of the children suffered at the hands of the village men. His novel is a wail of agony wrapped in spritely prose, deepened with irony and a bitter humour. It reads fast and packed with surprise and horror. This is no admiring chronicle of the values of the God-fearing Jamaican peasant but a searing account of the exigencies of poverty and superstition in a demanding environment. It is a magnificent piece of work, combining different modes of storytelling including poetry, letters, journal writing, and sketched images, and covering a plethora of issues, including attitudes to homosexuality. Alan has done a bang-up job of presenting the memories of the boy he once was and the collective memories of the village he came from. His coming to terms with these memories in a brilliantly innovative text is our gain and his salvation. - Mary Hanna, Bookends Review, the Jamaica Observer newspaper (Read the full review here: bit.ly/z7RUV8)

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Customer Reviews

From the onset of his provocative and captivating novel, Disposable People, Ezekel Alan lures and guides readers through each disturbing childhood experience of Kenneth E.S. Lovelace, or Kenny, using a unique yet effective 'stream-of-consciousness' writing style. Alan masterfully manages to pull me with him through regions of Jamaica that are often removed from the view of outsiders and tourists: areas rife with abject poverty, misery and hopelessness; areas steeped in a "fog" of despicable and wretched despair; Jamaica's so-called Depression and "that hateful f...ing place". Disposable People held me captive and I felt as though I was there with Lovelace, living each haunting experience with him like one of his unfortunate, trapped and miserable childhood friends. While the book pokes through Lovelace's past, it simultaneously forces readers to explore their past and examine events that shaped their lives: childhood experiences and how those experiences molded our deepest, innermost feelings of ourselves and others. As a fellow Jamaican, the book brought to the forefront of my mind disquieting memories of a distant past and Alan skillfully reminds us that our past follows like our shadow. Lovelace's striking childhood experiences are described in his diary entries to his "true love", Semicolon, and are often in vignettes that possess vivid, disturbing imageries. However, occasionally I found myself wishing that some of these vignettes were a bit longer as their brevity made some of the stories appear incomplete and had me wishing for more to read. This may be a testimony to Alan's unique brand of sarcastic humor and compelling stories.

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