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Book Review: I am Malala: The Girl who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban (Yousafzai & Lam)

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BOOK REVIEW:
I AM MALALA: THE GIRL WHO STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND WAS SHOT BY THE TALIBAN (YOUSAFZAI & LAMB)
BY KAY HENRY AND JUNE HETZEL

We honor Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan whose courageous will to live and speak up for girls' rights to education not only built the foundation of her personal story, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban*, but also earned her many international awards for her dedicated bravery, including becoming the joint recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize (shared with Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian who campaigns for the rights of children).

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban is a "must-read" for those interested in promoting the educational rights of women globally. Raised by a father and mother who understood the importance of women's education, Malala experienced a flourishing educational environment. Their fierce love for their daughter reigned in a society that favors sons and strengthened Malala to graciously and painstakingly demonstrate the will to live, even when, as a 15-year-old, she was shot by the Taliban at point blank range for speaking up regarding women's rights to an education.

Although unknown outside Pakistan before being shot as she travelled home from her father's school in the back of a converted truck, Malala was already a well-established public figure inside her own country. She did radio interviews as a 13-year-old, speaking out for girls' education. Her courage in championing girls' rights to education and freedom from fundamentalist restrictions in the face of threats is unquestionable. Malala is a bright, articulate heroine whose story continues to inspire millions, as did her speech at the United Nations once she had recovered from her injuries. She is an example of the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

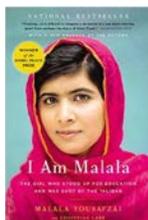
Malala experienced a miraculous recovery from the cowardly attack, but was forever changed. Her tragedy led her from a remote valley in Pakistan to the podium of the United Nations, where on July 12, 2013, at the first ever Youth Takeover of the UN, Malala said, "we realize the importance of light when we see darkness. We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced. In the same way, when we were in Swat, the north of Pakistan, we realized the importance of pens and books when we saw the guns." Malala has become a global spokesperson for women's rights and the youngest to have ever received a Nobel Peace Prize, encouraging all women to empower themselves with the weapon of knowledge, shielding themselves with unity and togetherness.

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban is inspirational, rich, and complex. Pakistani culture and history, which is woven throughout the book, allow the reader to feel an infinity towards the beauty of the countryside, the courage of its people, and the complex cultural clashes among the Pakistani people . . . from those who support education for all to those who would shoot a young girl riding a bus home from school. This book provides insight into what many intelligent, principled Muslim families in Pakistan want for their children and for their future – equality of opportunity and freedom from the crippling burdens of both poverty and religious and political oppression. The reader leaves the book with a deeper understanding of what life might have been like during an invasion of the Taliban into an otherwise peaceful, rural Pakistani valley setting.

BOOK REVIEW

I AM MALALA: THE GIRL WHO STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND WAS SHOT BY THE TALIBAN
 Justice, Spirituality, & Education Journal; Spring 2015, Vol. 3, No. 1; ISSN 2379-3538

We salute Malala Yousafzai and her parents and family who have bravely stood by her. Indeed, this is a young woman who has exemplified what it means to transform a tragedy into triumph and to bring honor to the value and human dignity of each person made in the image of God, including women worldwide who desire an education. In Malala's many public appearances since the book's publication, Malala reminds us that her story is also the story of the 16 million children across the world that still await access to an education. Watch for the new version of this book for young readers entitled *I Am Malala, Young Readers Edition: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* that recounts Malala's tale of being shot at by Taliban, her life in Swat Valley under Taliban rule, and her new life in Britain, where she now lives and studies, written in a way that young readers will enjoy.



I AM MALALA: THE GIRL WHO STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND WAS SHOT BY THE TALIBAN (YOUSAFZAI & LAMB)

Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

\$9.99 eBook ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)), \$13.94 paperback ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

ISBN #: 978-0316322409

Binding: eBook or paperback



MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. As a child, she became an advocate for girls' education, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived, and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. In 2014, she was nominated again and won, becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



CHRISTINA LAMB

Christina Lamb, OBE, is a British journalist who is currently Foreign Correspondent for The Sunday Times. She was educated at University College, Oxford (BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. She has won Foreign Correspondent of the Year four times.



KAY HENRY

Kay Henry (BA, Doane College; MA Biola University) enjoys research on the topics of challenges of some first generation college students that may prevent their continuing matriculation, how the church can use African theology to address the issue of violence against women, and a Native American perspective on Western Christianity that included an ethnographic study of individuals from a variety of American Indian nations. She is passionate about celebrating diversity and new beginnings since her walk with Jesus began at age 38. Kay's undergraduate coursework focused on the critical impact of effective workplace communication and how hiring a diverse population could benefit a company's future growth. Kay enjoys learning about the theology of Ubuntu as it relates to the importance of community. She served as a panel member at an Associated Students CSA-sponsored chapel, "Impact of Gender," April 2010, as a women's advocate, is a member of the speakers' bureau for Friendship Home, a safe place for abused women, and is a Certified Toastmaster.



JUNE HETZEL

June Hetzel, Ph.D., earned her Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School. She currently serves as the Dean of Education at Biola University in La Mirada, California. Dr. Hetzel has served in public, private, homeschooling, and international educational settings. She is passionate about the role of the Christian educator to live a Spirit-led life in right relationship with God and others, and the centrality of the gospel message as the central hope of all educational endeavors.

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