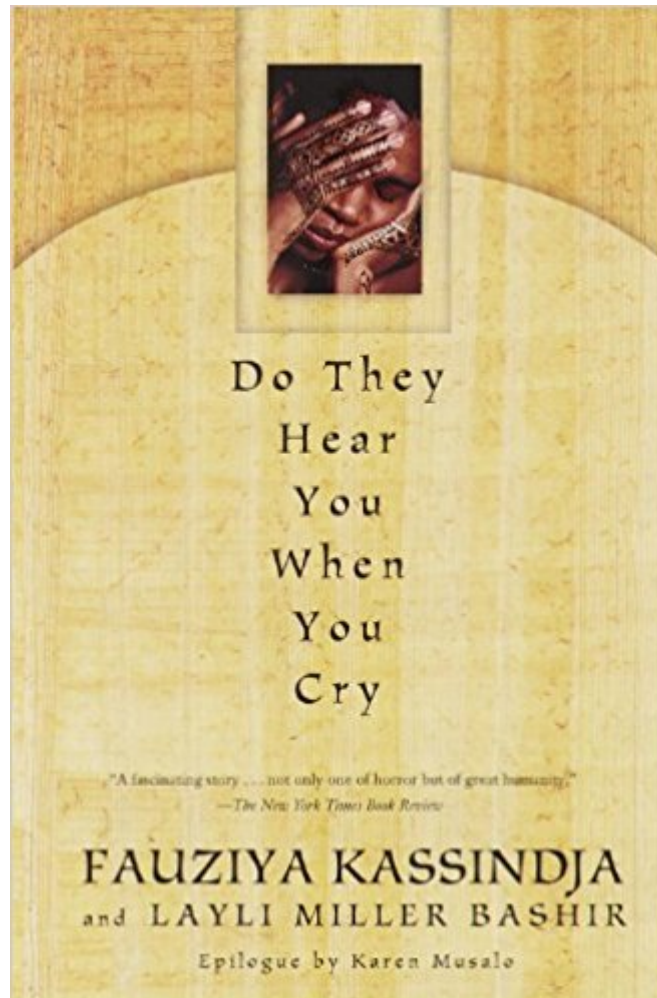




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# Do They Hear You When You Cry



## Synopsis

For Fauziya Kassindja, an idyllic childhood in Togo, West Africa, sheltered from the tribal practices of polygamy and genital mutilation, ended with her beloved father's sudden death. Forced into an arranged marriage at age seventeen, Fauziya was told to prepare for kakia, the ritual also known as female genital mutilation. It is a ritual no woman can refuse. But Fauziya dared to try. This is her story--told in her own words--of fleeing Africa just hours before the ritual kakia was to take place, of seeking asylum in America only to be locked up in U.S. prisons, and of meeting Layli Miller Bashir, a law student who became Fauziya's friend and advocate during her horrifying sixteen months behind bars. Layli enlisted help from Karen Musalo, an expert in refugee law and acting director of the American University International Human Rights Clinic. In addition to devoting her own considerable efforts to the case, Musalo assembled a team to fight with her on Fauziya's behalf. Ultimately, in a landmark decision in immigration history, Fauziya Kassindja was granted asylum on June 13, 1996. *Do They Hear You When You Cry* is her unforgettable chronicle of triumph.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just hours before her impending and much feared circumcision and days before her marriage to a polygamist, 17-year-old Fauziya Kassindja flees an oppressive life in Togo, seeking political asylum in the United States. But her troubles are far from over once Kassindja arrives in the place where she hopes to find her freedom. The harrowing tale of *Do They Hear You When You Cry?* depicts the

agonizing months spent behind bars waiting for her release. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph (Sister Act II, Distinguished Gentleman, Designing Women) delivers the audio version of this passionate and vivid story. Using a variety of accents, intonations, and diction, she develops distinct voices for the dozens of people who come into contact with the young woman. Through her creative, melodic performance, Ralph provides the biography with energy and enthusiasm. Listeners are quickly drawn into Kassindja's frightening world and the ordeal surrounding her desperate fight for freedom. *Do They Hear You When You Cry?* is a profoundly moving story of strength and perseverance. (Running time: six hours, four cassettes) --Gina Kaysen --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Kassindja was at the center of the landmark U.S. case that legitimized giving asylum to a woman who flees her country to avoid ritual genital mutilation. This is her story?and that of her lawyer, Bashir?who took up her cause after Kassindja was imprisoned by the INS upon arriving here from Togo.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Wonderful audio book. A very sad yet powerful story. I could not stop listening till it was finished.

Bought it for a friend. She is interested in The Tahirih Justice Center which is the basis for Layli Miller-Bashir (Now Layli Miller-Muro) founding the Tahirih Justice Center. Go to [Tahirih.org](http://Tahirih.org) and learn about one of the most recognized and awarded non-profits in the country.An absolutely terrific book with a wonderful after-story.

Excellent, excellent book and very informative about the detention system that equates asylum seekers with criminals and treats them very, very badly!! I couldn't put this book down!!!

Such a good read. I was immediately vested in Fauziya's life and wanted a happy ending. My eyes were opened to the way our country treats immigrants. The book captivates from beginning to end.

Perhaps it is the way the author writes, but I found this book hard to follow at several points, due to the introduction of new people mentioned, and new events mentioned. I think that her story was extremely sad, depressing, and moving. I came to learn more about a country I had previously knew nothing about and about practices of sub-saharan cases of FGM. I think its a fascinating case of an individuals struggle to escape the horrors of FGM and arranged marriages. So many of stories told about atrocities done against women and girls everywhere rarely highlight the individual from a

group perspective. It makes me feel even more grateful and humble to live in a country where there are far more barriers to protect women and girls than in the authors country of Togo.

I read this book years ago and never forgot it. This purchase I am giving as a gift. Life-changing book, especially today when immigration is such a vital issue. A must-read.

One of my all time favorite books. Incredibly captivating, moving, and informative. A must read for everyone - especially anyone interested in immigration law, asylum, FGM (female genital mutilation), and the inhumane treatment of humans in some of America's prisons during the 1990's.

Fauziya Kassindja survived the horror to beat all horrors on United States soil, and I applaude her for telling her story, because, by doing so, she put the American government's brutal acts on display. I was inspired by her bravery and determination to honor her family and protect the wishes of her late father. The reason this book doesn't get the coveted 5 stars is because the exciting part--the part that kept my interest--didn't come until midway through the book, after she fled Togo. The first half was compelling, but a bit redundant.

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