

**Title: *War Girls***  
**Author: Tochi Onyebuchi**  
**Genre: Science Fiction**

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Oliver W. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: July 25, 2020**

It is the year 2172 and nuclear disasters and climate change have caused many countries to flee Earth and settle in space. There is a civil war going on in Nigeria, where Biafra wants to break away from Nigeria because of a lack of representation in government, but Nigeria wants the precious minerals in Biafran land. Onyii is a girl on the Biafran side, and she lives in a camp for former child soldiers and girls orphaned by the war. She is an Augment, meaning that she has limbs and organs replaced with mechanical ones. These mechanical limbs help protect people from the harsh radiation that still exists in much of Nigeria, which renders much of the land unlivable. Among her “sisters” is Ify, who was orphaned as a young child and was rescued by Onyii and brought to the camp. Onyii wants to protect Ify from ever having to experience war again. Ify wants to go to space one day and has developed an advanced machine called an Accent that allows her to hack other machines. Ify uses her Accent to get lessons about space from the Nigerians, but her signal is tracked by the Nigerians and her camp is attacked. The camp is torn apart and Ify is taken by the Nigerians.

Four years later, both of the sisters believe the other one is dead. Ify is the best student at her school in the Nigerian capital Abuja. She has dreams of attending college in America and going to space one day. Meanwhile, Onyii wants to get revenge for Ify’s death and is the best soldier on both sides of the war, known as the Demon of Biafra. She won’t stop until Biafra is recognized as a nation but there are days that she feels that the fighting will be endless. But Ify accidentally views top secret information and sees that Onyii is still alive. She is shown by the boy who adopted her, named Daren, a memory that they found in her, showing that Onyii was the one who killed her family when she was younger. Ify’s new purpose in life is to kill Onyii and avenge her family’s death. The two sides have reached a ceasefire and Onyii is living in the Biafran capital Enugu. Ify has found a refugee caravan to travel with and makes it to Enugu, where she is able to find Onyii’s apartment. But before she can shoot Onyii, Enugu is blown up again. The Nigerians knew that Ify was going to find Onyii, and they put a tracker in her to find where the Demon of Biafra was. The ceasefire is broken and the two sides are again back at war. Onyii and Ify must now decide what they are willing to do for freedom.

***Did the plot keep you interested?***

Yes, the plot kept me interested. It was a really great story that showed the devastating things war can do. The world that Onyebuchi built was amazing and it was so captivating reading how the two sisters tried to find their way back to each other through a war.

***Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?***

The pace of the book was just right. There was a lot of action with the battles but we also got to read a lot about how Onyii and Ify were feeling, and what was driving them to do what they were doing.

***What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?***

There is no profanity and very little sexual content but there is a lot of violence. There are vivid descriptions of battle scenes and injuries as well as what a person who is in the middle of a war

might be feeling. Many parts of the books are very sad. I think this book would be appropriate for readers in grades 7 and up.

***What type of reader would you recommend this book to?***

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy books with futuristic technology and enjoy books about war. I think it is an important book for everyone to read that really teaches people about the horrors and injustices of war.

***What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?***

I think it would be helpful for teens to know that the Biafran War, also known as the Nigerian Civil War is an actual war that started in 1967 in Nigeria. The author, Tochi Onyebuchi's family had to live through this war. The author felt that there wasn't enough writing about this war and Biafra, so he decided to write this book, hoping that it will be one of many such books.

***I would rate this book 5 stars.***

The story was really great and inspiring and I loved all of the futuristic technology that was in the book. It really showed to me what war could do to a person, and all the loss someone would have to endure to fight for freedom. The ending of the story was a little bit rushed. So much happened and I felt that the author was just trying to wrap up the story as quickly as possible. There was so much death in this book that I don't really understand how this book is part of a series. I thought the way that this book ended was enough. I think that the book shined a light on a war that really isn't talked about much and showed how violence in a country affects ordinary people who are just trying to live a life. The characters changed their purpose in life a little too often and I'm not really sure how realistic that is but overall I think that this a great book that everyone should read.