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Here I Stand: Stories that Speak for Freedom **by 25 leading authors and illustrators**

edited by & compilation: Amnesty International UK © 2016

Publisher: Walker Books UK

RRP \$24.99 hardback

Here I stand is not a book to be read cover to cover at one go. Each contribution stands alone, and reflection between stories falls naturally. The depth of that reflection is influenced by life's 'frame of reference'.

Fiction based on facts, the stories and poems illustrate how freedom plays a role in everyday things like friendship, and how easy it is to be unconsciously taught and experience negative life-scripts. It looks at how freedom is challenged and how it can be denied, even in so-called civilized countries.

The *Stories that Speak for Freedom* include: child soldiers, molestation, and trafficking; female genital mutilation; the death penalty; how fear creates negative reactions; and much more. Government and Big Business actions are also represented.

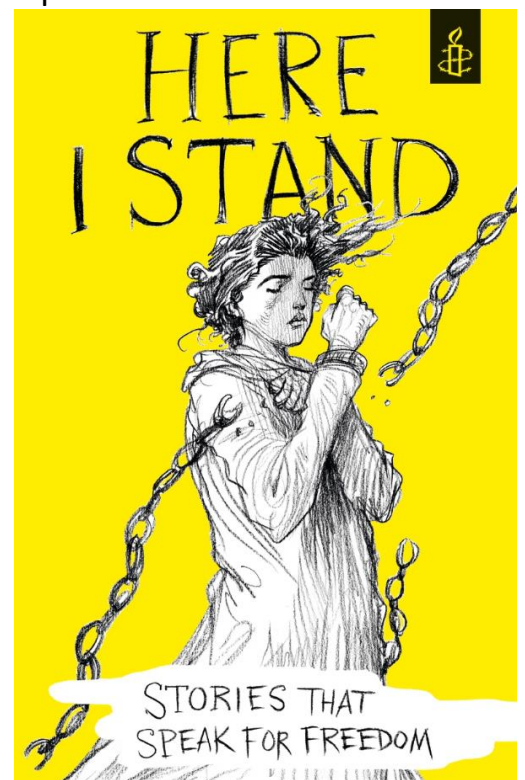
As contributor A L Kennedy says, human rights legislation and declarations since World War II "represent some of the finest and most generous products of human imagination". Those rights are "now under threat" and "it is easy for children to be victims and to find no support, or even to be blamed for the effects of their own suffering and victimised again for seeming strange."

If any story leads even a few readers to understand what is happening in their immediate world and to learn from that understanding, it will have done a much needed job.

Amnesty International website:

www.amnesty.org.nz

Reviewed by Jean Anderson



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