



Little Princes

By **Conor Grennan**
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Introduction

In search of adventure, 29-year-old Conor Grennan traded his day job for a year-long trip around the globe, a journey that began with a three-month stint volunteering at the Little Princes Orphanage in war-torn Nepal. But what began as a lark became a passionate commitment that would transform the young American and the lives of countless others.

Within minutes of his arrival, Grennan was surrounded by a horde of gleeful boys and girls showering him with warm welcomes. Yet as he soon learned, the children's cheery smiles belied years of pain and abuse, for many of the boys and girls at Little Princes were not orphans at all, but victims rescued from human traffickers. Moved by their plight, Grennan vowed that when his trip was over he would return to the children of Little Princes and eventually reunite them with their families—a promise he would risk his life to keep.

Little Princes is the powerful story of a soul's awakening and a reflection of the noblest and darkest of human intent. It is a true, and often hilarious, tale of the power of optimism, love, and faith. And it is an unforgettable account of children, families, and one man whose decision to take a stand makes the world a better place for all of us.

Questions for Discussion

1. What most impressed you about the author and the children with whom he came into contact? Did any aspect of the story upset you? Did Conor's story inspire you?
2. In your opinion, what was it about these children that touched Conor so deeply? Were you moved by their plight? What about the increasing number of children growing up in poverty in America? Do you see these children in the same way, or do you see their situations differently?
3. How might American children help their counterparts in places like Nepal? Thinking about the Little Princes, do you think we as Americans spoil our children and ourselves? Do we buy more than what can truly be appreciated?
4. When Conor returned to Nepal he met the mother of one of the Little Princes. How did this affect him personally? And how did it influence the course of events that followed?
5. How did volunteering at Little Princes prepare Conor for having a family of his own? What did these children teach him about himself and the world?
6. At the beginning of *Little Princes*, Conor did not see himself as a global humanitarian, yet his visit to Nepal changed everything. What is it about him and others like him introduced in *Little Princes* that sets him apart from those who don't volunteer or get involved?
7. How did Gorkka, the man who trafficked many of these children, get away with his nefarious practices for so long? Human trafficking has become a worldwide problem, affecting millions. Why has it flourished and what steps might help stop it? How might you play a role? Would you consider doing so? Why or why not?
8. Do you empathize with the parents of the Little Princes children and others? Do you understand why they gave their children up? What might you do given similar circumstances?
9. What lessons did you take away from reading *Little Princes*?

About the Author

Before traveling to Nepal, Conor Grennan spent eight years at the EastWest Institute (EWI) in Prague and Brussels, focusing on peace and reconciliation in the Balkans. In 2001 he was named Deputy Director of EWI's Program on Security and Good Governance, and served as the Advisor on EU Affairs to EWI's Worldwide Security Program.

In 2004, Conor began work at the Little Princes Children's Home in the village of Godawari, outside Kathmandu, Nepal, where he cared for eighteen children. In 2006 he founded Next Generation Nepal, a non-profit organization that helps reconnect trafficked and displaced children with their families and communities.

A citizen of the U.S. and Ireland, Conor received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. In May 2010 he graduated from the NYU Stern School of Business where he was President of the Student Body. Having hired a US-based Executive Director for Next Generation Nepal (www.nextgenerationnepal.org), Conor now serves as an active board member for NGN, still involved in the daily activity of the organization. He lives in New York City area with his wife and son.

A portion of the proceeds from the book will go to Next Generation Nepal.