



## Belly Woman Birth, Blood & Ebola: The Untold Story By Benjamin Black

‘A must-read for our times – riveting, illuminating and humbling.’ — **AMINATTA FORNA**, author of *The Memory of Love* and *The Devil That Danced on the Water*

‘An inspirational story of compassion and dedication in the face of a brutal epidemic.’ — **LEAH HAZARD**, author of *Hard Pushed: A Midwife’s Story*

‘Brave, moving, and vital. . . Read it.’ — **DAMIEN BROWN**, author of *Band-Aid for A Broken Leg*

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**An eye-opening work of reportage and advocacy, *Belly Woman* chronicles the inside journey through an unfolding global health crisis and the struggle to save the lives of young mothers.**

May, 2014. Sierra Leone is ranked the country with the highest death rate of pregnant women in the world. The same month, Ebola crosses in from neighbouring Guinea. Arriving a few weeks later, Dr Benjamin Black finds himself at the centre of an exponential Ebola outbreak. From impossible decisions on the maternity ward to moral dilemmas at the Ebola Treatment Centres. One mistake, one error of judgment, could spell disaster. As Black reckons with the demons of the past, he must try to learn the lessons for a different, more resilient, future.

***Belly Woman* shines a light on a story often left untold.**

**Dr Benjamin Black** is a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in London and a specialist advisor to international aid organisations. His focus on sexual, reproductive and maternal healthcare for populations in times of crisis has taken him to many countries. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic he provided frontline healthcare to pregnant women and supported international guidelines development. Benjamin also teaches medical teams around the world on improving sexual and reproductive health care to the most vulnerable people in the most challenging of environments.

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## Praise for Belly Woman Birth, Blood & Ebola: The Untold Story

‘From Sierra Leone to London, from 2014 to 2020, Benjamin Black’s account of helping pregnant women in the midst of an Ebola epidemic and a Covid 19 pandemic is heartbreaking and terrifying. Black has done a stellar job of narrating what it is like to be on the frontline of a crisis as it unfolds and then engulfs. Death waits in the shadows of the delivery room, not just for the mother or her child, but for the medical staff, too. A needle prick or a slipped mask can mean the end. The parallels between the two outbreaks are evident, the range of human response not much different: fear, desperation, denial, anger, stoicism, compassion and courage all take their turn. *Belly Woman* is a must-read for our times. It is riveting, illuminating and humbling.’ — **Aminatta Forna, author of *The Memory of Love* and *The Devil That Danced on the Water***

‘This is an inspirational story of compassion and dedication in the face of a brutal epidemic, and Benjamin Black is the one to tell it.’ — **Leah Hazard, author of *Hard Pushed: A Midwife’s Story***

‘Brave, moving, and vital. A unique account of battling the Ebola outbreak while providing maternity care in Sierra Leone, and of the incredible women, families, and health workers Dr Black encountered. Read it.’ — **Damien Brown, author of *Band-Aid for A Broken Leg***