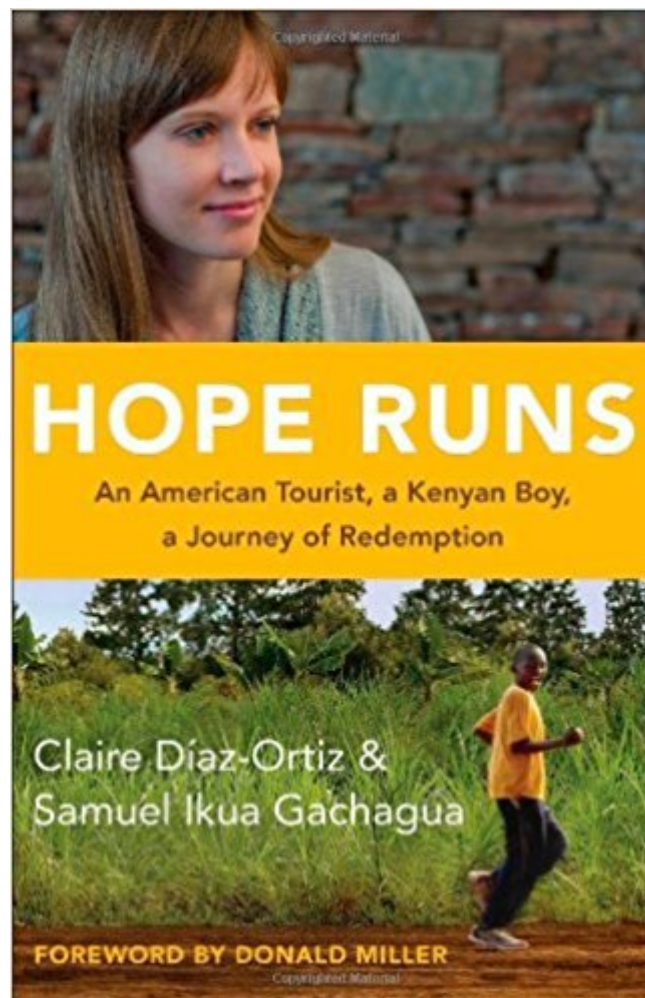




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# Hope Runs: An American Tourist, A Kenyan Boy, A Journey Of Redemption



## Synopsis

Sammy Ikua Gachagua had lost his father to illness, his mother to abandonment, and his home to poverty. By age ten, he was living in a shack with seven other children and very little food. He entered an orphanage seeing it as a miracle with three meals a day, a bed to sleep in, and clothes on his back. When Claire Diaz-Ortiz arrived in Kenya at the end of an around-the-world journey, she decided to stay the night, climb Mt. Kenya, then head back home. She entered an orphanage seeing it as little more than a free place to spend the night before her mountain trek. God had other plans. *Hope Runs* is the emotional story of an American tourist, a Kenyan orphan, and the day that would change the course of both of their lives forever. It's about what it means to live in the now when the world is falling down around you. It's about what it means to hope for the things you cannot see. Most of all, it's about how God can change your life in the blink of an eye.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

She went to Kenya to climb a mountain. But God had other plans. When Claire Diaz-Ortiz arrived in Kenya at the end of an around-the-world journey, she decided to stay the night, climb Mount Kenya, and then head back home. She entered an orphanage, seeing it as little more than a free place to spend the night before her mountain trek. Sammy Ikua Gachagua had lost his father to illness, his mother to abandonment, and his home to poverty. By age ten, he was living in a shack with several other children and very little food. He entered an orphanage, seeing it as a miracle with three meals a day, a bed to sleep in, and clothes on his back. *Hope Runs* is the emotional story of one American tourist, one Kenyan orphan, and how one day became one year that would change

the course of both of their lives forever. It's about opening your heart to outrageous possibilities. It's about what it means to hope for the things you cannot see. It's about how God can change your life in the blink of an eye.

Claire Díaz-Ortiz is an author, speaker, and technology innovator who has been named one of the 100 Most Creative People in Business by Fast Company. Claire was an early employee at Twitter, where she still works, and over the years has been called everything from "a mover and shaker" (Mashable) to a "force for good" (Forbes). She is the author of several books, including *Twitter for Good: Change the World One Tweet at a Time*. She is a frequent international speaker and writes a popular business blog at [www.clairediazortiz.com](http://www.clairediazortiz.com). Claire holds an MBA from Oxford University and a BA and an MA from Stanford University. She is the cofounder of Hope Runs, a nonprofit organization operating in AIDS orphanages in Kenya. She has appeared widely in major television and print news sources such as CNN, BBC, Time, Newsweek, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Fortune, Forbes, Wired, and many others. Find her on Twitter @claire.

Samuel Ikua Gachagua was born in rural Kenya in 1992. After losing his parents at a young age, he struggled to survive until he was placed in an orphanage in Nyeri, Kenya. In 2009, he received a full-ride scholarship to Maine Central Institute, granting him a rare US visa and the chance to begin his sophomore year of high school under the guardianship of Claire Díaz-Ortiz. After graduating from high school, he spent a year serving in Ecuador as a fellow for Global Citizen Year. He is an up-and-coming motivational speaker and can be found on Twitter @sammyikua.

"One restless woman from America seeking--something . . . and one homeless boy from Africa seeking--someone . . . write a story that has your heart colliding with what you're looking for--right where you are."--Ann Voskamp, author of the New York Times bestseller *One Thousand Gifts*

"Hope Runs is more than a book, it's a monument to empathy."--from the foreword by Donald Miller, bestselling author of *Blue Like Jazz*

"This book isn't just a story, it's an invitation to love extravagantly. It's about relentless hope and tremendous love. Buckle up, you're about to be changed."--Bob Goff, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Uganda; New York Times bestselling author of *Love Does*

"Claire knows firsthand what it means to really give of her time and talent, and in this book she challenged me to do the same. My heart sings that there are people in the world like her."--Tsh Oxenreider, author of *Notes from a Blue Bike*

"Claire and Sammy invite us into their story with the comfortable familiarity of old friends, challenging us to see beyond the borders of what we thought life was supposed to hold and how detours are often the best storylines of all."--Lisa-Jo Baker, author of *Surprised by Motherhood*; community manager for (in)courage

"A beautiful story, beautifully told. This book is a timely reminder that love and hope can bridge continents and create

family anywhere."--Shauna Niequist, author of Bread & Wine

This story is told in two voices, alternating between Claire and Samuel. Claire was an American tourist, ending a year long travel with her best friend, Lara and their last stop was to be Kenya where they were going to end their voyage by climbing Mount Kenya. They were told about a place they could stay the night and that was at an orphanage where Samuel or (Sammy) was living. Claire fell in love with the place and ended up with her friend staying there for a year, helping out and co-founded a non profit organization called Hope Runs for children in Orphanages throughout Kenya. Sammy is one of the children who really stuck out to Claire, very smart, intuitive and a person who really just wanted to learn anything that he could. The year at the orphanage, changed both their lives for every, they became family. This story takes us to into there lives before and after the orphanage, and how along with Claire's best friend (Lara) they become a big part of each others lives.

Great story - liked the uniqueness of having both Claire and Sammy contribute to the "journey". I appreciated the perspective and the insight into the culture and situation of Kenyan orphans. Also appreciated the insights to the needs physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually of the children, the workers, volunteers, and tourists and how the children viewed the ingress and egress of the latter.

This is the first review I've ever submitted, anywhere. Sometimes you have to speak out on things that matter to you. What Claire Diaz-Ortiz did is DO something about things that mattered to her. Her journey from world traveler to selfless nurturer is an inspiration. So is Sammy's story of rising above the bad hand he was dealt to the "full house" he created with the help of loving and caring people like Claire, Lara and the staff of the Imani Children's Home in Kenya. Do yourself a favor and buy this book that follows the parallel paths of Claire and Sammy that intersect when they both least expect it. Their lives are richer for having met each other. Yours will be, too, for having read it.

The story is wonderful. The writing just doesn't go deep enough. I loved Sammy's viewpoints. I would have liked more details of the thought process of how Claire and Lara decided to help Sammy to the point of becoming his legal guardians (I assume that is what happened). When it ended, I didn't understand it was the end. It seemed very incomplete and left me wanting more information. I was expecting the book to evoke more emotion than it did for me. I am very happy for

Sammy and touched at how Claire and Lara were able to change his life forever and in turn, I believe Sammy will change other lives forever. Very good return on investment.

A fascinating reading about the reality and power of love and compassion, in good and in bad times, of people coming from completely different backgrounds. Claire's courage in searching the inner truth and removing mountains of obstacle in parallel with Sammy who seems in every, even harshest situation to react only with gratitude and kindness. Great inspiration for each one of us, though each one of us can only walk one's own path to redemption.

This book tells a story that will make you think for a long time after you have turned the last page. I loved how Sammy's story was interspersed with Claire's. The experiences that brought the two lives together were fascinating. It was a wonderful look into the way life brings together the people who can touch each other's lives in profound and meaningful ways. I gained a greater understanding of how we can make a difference in each other's lives and in the world at large.

Sweet, encouraging story. A great read, would like a sequel.

Much more depth of emotions, circumstances and details would have made the story much better. I wanted to know more about their feelings.

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