

Hotel Rwanda

Director: Terry George
2004 (110')



Paul Rusesabagina is the manager of the Hotel Des Milles Collines in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. He is a good manager of an upmarket hotel; he knows how to please people and get things done. This film is about his ability to be a good manager during a time of terror and death when between 500,000 and 1,000,000 people were slaughtered in about 100 days. Rusesabagina was and is a real person and his actions helped to keep over thousand people alive. This is a dramatization set within a very real historical moment in a small country in Africa. It is a story of survival in a shocking time. As Paul says, while the westerners are being evacuated from the country: "There will be no rescue, no intervention for us. We can only save ourselves."

Vocabulary and expressions:

Rally: large public meeting that is held in order to show support for something such as a political party. There is a Hutu rally at the beginning of the film in support of the Hutus.

Cockroach: A large brown insect. Some Hutus referred to Tutsis as cockroaches.

Ransack: If people ransack a building, they make a mess and damage things in it, often because they are looking for something.

It had been ransacked. (The house)

Dung: Dung is faeces from animals, especially from large animals such as cows or horses.

They think you're dung.

Evacuate: To send someone to a place of safety, away from a dangerous building, town, or area.

Lines from the film:

Paul: I am glad that you have shot this footage and that the world will see it.

It is the only way we have a chance that people might intervene.

Jack (a journalist): I think if people see this footage they'll say, "oh my God that's horrible," and then go on eating their dinners.

Paul: *There will be no rescue, no intervention for us. We can only save ourselves.*

Paul to his wife: They told me I was one of them, and I... the wine, chocolates, cigars, style... I swallowed it. I swallowed it, I swallowed all of it. And they handed me their shit. I have no... no history. I have no memory. I'm a fool, Tati.

George Rutaganda: When people ask me, good listeners, why do I hate all the Tutsi, I say, "Read our history." The Tutsi were collaborators for the Belgian colonists, they stole our Hutu land, they whipped us. Now they have come back, these Tutsi rebels. They are cockroaches. They are murderers. Rwanda is our Hutu land.

In collaborazione con
In Zusammenarbeit mit

