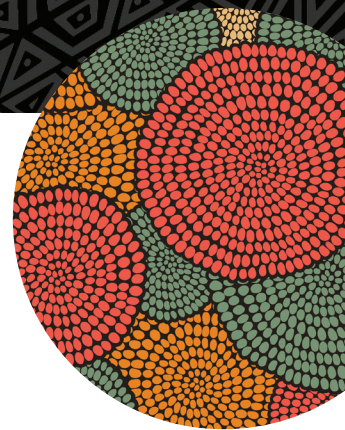




## Unnatural Resources by Mindy Uhrlaub

Permanent Press, 2020 | 200 pages

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San Francisco, CA – Inspired by true stories, author and activist Mindy Uhrlaub shines a light on the injustices against women, children and other at-risk populations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in her latest book, a novel called Unnatural Resources.

Considered by many as the “rape capital of the world,” the DRC in central Africa is beset by acts of violence, torture and murder, perpetrated by bands of organized militia groups. Women, young girls and child soldiers are subdued and victimized on a daily basis.

Unnatural Resources (Permanent Press, 2020) details the ongoing violence against the Congolese. The author, Mindy Uhrlaub, has traveled several times to the Congo with Human Rights Watch and Eve Ensler’s V-Day to interview rape survivors and child soldiers. She was stunned by “how dangerous it is for the people who live there – both the victims and the activists who try to help them,” said Uhrlaub.

“The author beautifully captures the politics, family, friendship, and young love of a place and its people. It is an excellent introduction into a country’s history, its human rights challenges, and the complexities of international humanitarian aid,” said Jennifer F. Haile, City Director, San Francisco Human Rights Watch. “I finished it knowing much more about the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and what a better world we can have when women are educated and empowered,” said Haile.





## About *Unnatural Resources*

When her Congolese village is destroyed by an invading militia group, eleven-year-old Therese is injured and outcast. Stranded in a war-torn jungle, she is forced to make a choice: lie down and become another victim of the war or stand up and survive. Desperate to find her mother and brother, she uses her greatest gift, her knowledge of English, to navigate the vast web of humanitarian aid groups. *Unnatural Resources* is a stunning and unflinchingly brutal redefinition of the meaning of family. This book tells the story of a young Congolese girl who becomes a symbol of hope in the worst place in the world to be female.

## What others are saying about *Unnatural Resources*

*“Uhrlaub’s harrowing novel doesn’t spare readers the grim reality of children harmed by sadists. Readers who like their fiction with a conscience will want to take a look.”*

- Publishers Weekly

*“Mindy Uhrlaub draws us, with gripping power, into the midst of one of the bloodiest, and most ignored, conflicts in the world today. If you don’t believe both the cruelty and bravery she writes about could actually happen, trust me: it does; I’ve been there. I wish more novelists were bold enough to take on stories like this.”*

- Adam Hochschild, Author of *King Leopold’s Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*

*“This straightforward account of the trail of pillage, rape, and murder left by multinational companies dramatizes a recurrent archetype in literature about Africa, as well as an economic failing too rarely addressed. This novel a worthy contribution to the growing pool of migrant literature.”*

- The Library Journal



## About the Author

Mindy has traveled twice with Human Rights Watch and Eve Ensler’s *V-Day* to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has taken testimony of rape survivors and child soldiers. Her interest in preventing the pillage of resources in Congo has also led her to visit Virunga National Park and to sit on the committee for Human Rights Watch’s Voices for Justice Dinner.

