

alfredo jaar: the sound of silence, 1995

kevin

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kevin carter

kevin carter was born in south africa in 1960

1960 was the year of the sharpville massacre

south african police opened fire
on peaceful demonstrators

they were protesting apartheid

69 people were killed

more than 300 were wounded

the african national congress was banned

and armed resistance to apartheid began

kevin

kevin carter

after dropping from his pharmacy studies

he was conscripted into
the south african defense forces

which he despised

one day he shielded a black waiter
against other soldiers

they called him a kaffir-boetie
(nigger lover)

they struck him severely

in 1980, he went absent without leave

he rode a motorcycle to durban
and became a dj

but he lost his job
he tried to kill himself swallowing rat poison

he survived

and returned to the army to finish
his service in pretoria

in 1983, while on guard duty, he was injured
by a bomb that killed 19 people

he survived

and finished his service

kevin

kevin carter

he found a job at a camera repair shop

he slowly drifted into photojournalism

he started working for
the johannesburg star in 1984

he exposed the brutality of apartheid

he documented many of the riots sweeping
the black townships

he became well-known with
three other white photographers

they took many risks

they were arrested many times

they were called the bang-bang club

they witnessed too many murders

they survived too many murders

kevin

on march 1, 1993, kevin carter
travelled north to sudan

his objective was to document
the rebel movement

sudan is one of the most impoverished
countries in the world

sudan is suffering a devastating famine

80% of the population depends on food aid

kevin carter flew to the village of ayod,
the epicenter of the famine

as soon as his plane landed, he started
photographing famine victims

he witnessed masses of people starving to death

he took dozens of photographs

exhausted, he wandered into the open bush

he heard a soft murmur

he saw a tiny girl trying to make her way
to a feeding center

he crouched to photograph her

but a vulture landed in view

he was careful not to disturb the bird

he positioned himself for
the best possible image

he waited 20 minutes

he was hoping the vulture would spread its wings

but it did not

he took his photographs

and chased the bird away

he watched as the little girl
resumed her struggle

he sat under a tree and lit a cigarette

talked to god

and cried

kevin

kevin

the new york times purchased this photograph

and ran it on march 26, 1993

magazines and newspapers from around the world
reproduced the image

thousands of people wrote

they called asking what had happened
to the child

why didn't he help the little girl, they asked

"the man adjusting his lens to take
just the right frame of her suffering

might just as well be a predator,

another vulture on the scene", a critic wrote

in april 1994, kevin carter received
the pulitzer prize for this photograph

kevin carter committed suicide
in the month of july 1994

he connected a green hose to
the exhaust pipe of his red pickup truck

and gassed himself to death

"I am really, really sorry", he wrote

"I am haunted by the vivid memories of killings

and corpses

and anger

and pain...

of starving
or wounded children..."
"the pain of life
overrides the joy
to the point that joy does not exist".

kevin

kevin

kevin carter is survived by his daughter megan

this photograph is owned by
the megan patricia carter trust

the rights of this photograph
are managed by corbis

corbis is owned by bill gates

corbis is the largest photo agency in the world
corbis controls close to 100 million photographs

the reference number of this photograph
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no one knows what happened to the child

the end