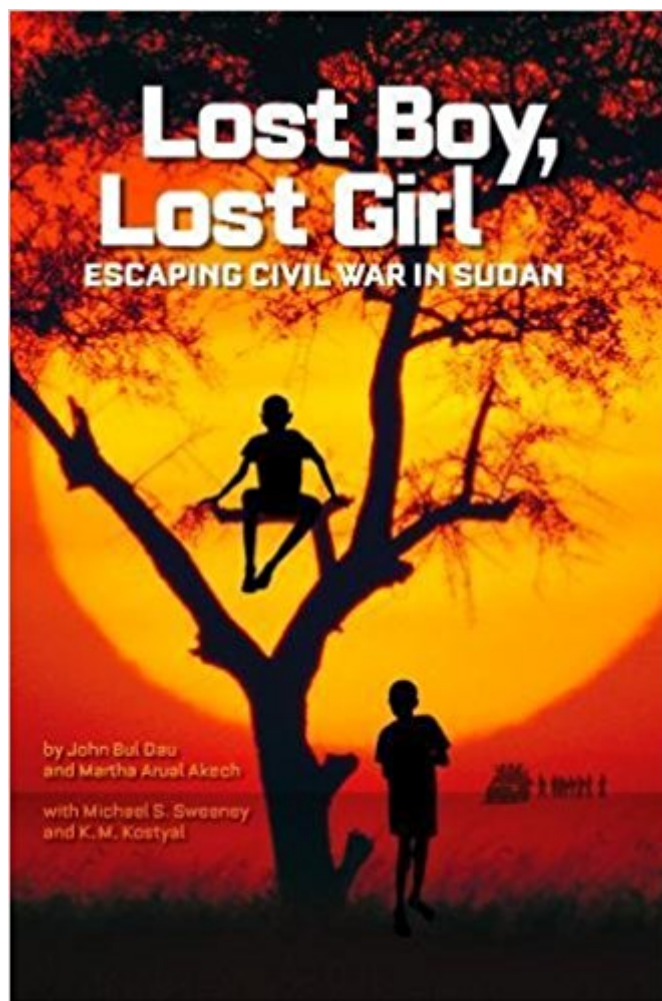


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# Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War In Sudan (Biography)



## Synopsis

One of thousands of children who fled strife in southern Sudan, John Bul Dau survived hunger, exhaustion, and violence. His wife, Martha, endured similar hardships. In this memorable book, the two convey the best of African values while relating searing accounts of famine and war.

There's warmth as well, in their humorous tales of adapting to American life. For its importance as a primary source, for its inclusion of the rarely told female perspective of Sudan's lost children, for its celebration of human resilience, this is the perfect story to inform and inspire young readers.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0900 (What's this?)

Series: Biography

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books (October 12, 2010)

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.7 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #66,461 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Violence #24 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage #533 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10 The tragic story of Sudan's Lost Boys and Lost Girls is told in simple language by two survivors. The authors explain that a civil war between Muslim Arabs in the north and Christian Africans in the south led to thousands of Sudanese being displaced from their homes. In 1987, when Dau was 13 and Akech was 6, war came to their village. Both traveled hundreds of miles to a UN refugee camp in Ethiopia. After a few years of safety, the refugees were forced to move again, back into Sudan and eventually to a new camp in Kenya. Through all those years, starvation, thirst, and disease plagued the Sudanese. Both Dau and Akech kept hope for the future by going to

school and learning. Their story has a happy ending, with immigration to the United States and marriage. Teens who know little about Sudan and its problems will be drawn into this moving, inspirational story. More than just a memoir, it is a reflection on a lost lifestyle, with plenty of details about the beliefs and culture of the Dinka, the southern Sudanese people to which both Dau and Akech belong to. Ideal for classroom use, this book is also a heartbreaking but hopeful read. —Melissa Rabey, Frederick County Public Libraries, MD (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Dau's adult memoir, *God Grew Tired of Us* (2007), was made into an award-winning documentary film, but even YA collections that already have that title, as well as similar stories about the "Lost Boys" who fled civil war in Sudan, will want this spare riveting account, which includes a "Lost Girl." In alternating narratives, John and Martha, who are both Christian Dinkas from Southern Sudan, describe wrenching separation from their families; witnessing mass slaughter; trekking through jungles, deserts, and bush; and reaching UN refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, where each lived for many years before arriving in the U.S., meeting, and marrying. As a young teen in the refugee camps, Martha fled an arranged marriage and waged a successful campaign to place more women in U.S. homes. A small section of color photos show scenes from refugee camps and traditional villages as well as John and Martha on their wedding day and with their children. An afterword and time line offer more background on the war that claimed more than two million lives. Grades 7-12. --Hazel Rochman

John and Martha, as children growing up in Sudan in the 1980s, both find themselves caught in the midst of a growing civil war. Both are forced to flee their homes, and travel hundreds of miles on foot, suffering thirst, hunger, and sickness, in order to find safety in Ethiopia. But their refuge proves only temporary, when a new government takes charge of Ethiopia, the refugees are violently forced back into Sudan, where war still rages. Both John and Martha find the courage and hope to survive despite their awful circumstances. And both John and Martha survive to build better lives for themselves. The book does describe many violent acts, including deaths involving animals and warfare, but they are not graphically portrayed. If you decide to use the book in a classroom, you'll want to pre-read to make sure the material is appropriate for your students. The story is a powerful one, about survival, hope, and the difference that one person or group of people can make.

Initially, this book was purchased for a school assignment for a family member. However, I found

myself simply captivated as it gave me some insight on the variables that contribute to the civil unrest and injustices in Sudan. Also, the heroic bravery and determination of John and Mary in their pursuit of freedom and reconnecting with their families.

John Dau spoke at my high school and was amazing. I immediately bought the book. John and his wife are incredible survivors and I am honored to have met them.

Good book for middle school. It gives a first hand account of the plight of the children trying to survive the war without the gruesome details of more mature books

Truly inspiring book. An excellent book for students. In our society where kids are for the most part spoiled with all the conveniences of life and sometimes feel entitled it can teach respect, appreciation and humility.

The books were in perfect condition and the price was great!

My student loved the book!

good book

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