Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War In Sudan
**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: 900 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 160 pages

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

Language: English

ISBN-10: 142630708X


Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (18 customer reviews)


Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

**Customer Reviews**

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.

I had no idea the extent of the war in Sudan. I remember hearing about the wars while I was in high school. The book is told from the viewpoint of John and Martha, who ended up in America where they married. Told in their words, John and Martha weave a tale of human resilience. Thousands of children were orphaned during the war. My heart broke for all the hunger and pain and sorrow they went through. And the adults who tried to help them. John and Martha have a happy ending, which is nice! Rating: PG (for war theme, death and hardship)

V: yes but not in detail
L: None
S: None

What an awesome book. I read it after my 14 year old son read it for his Human Geography class. I was completely moved by the story and my heart broke for all of the refugees.

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.

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.

Very well written from the standpoint of children actually experiencing the civil war in the Sudan. Marching as displaced persons 500 miles to one country and then war in that country forcing them to march another 500 miles to a second nation raises an awareness of the abuses brought on by civil wars. At the same time their resilience is astounding.

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.

I thought the book was easy to read, moved along quickly and very informative, especially if you didn't know much about the history of the South Sudanese refugees. I've read most of the books written by or about the "Lost Boys," and this was definitely one of the better ones.

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