

FATHER *of the* LOST BOYS

by **YUOT A. ALAAK**

ABOUT THE BOOK

During the Second Sudanese Civil War, thousands of South Sudanese boys were displaced from their villages or orphaned in attacks from northern government troops. Many became refugees in Ethiopia. There, in 1989, teacher and community leader Mecak Ajang Alaak assumed care of the Lost Boys in a bid to protect them from becoming child soldiers. So began a four-year journey from Ethiopia to Sudan and on to the safety of a Kenyan refugee camp. Together they endured starvation, animal attacks and the horrors of landmines and aerial bombardment. This eyewitness account by Mecak Ajang Alaak's son, Yuot, is the extraordinary true story of a man who never ceased to believe that the pen is mightier than the gun.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yuot A. Alaak comes from the village of Majak in South Sudan's Jonglei State and migrated to Australia as a refugee with his parents in May 1995. He now calls himself a proud South Sudanese Australian and lives in Perth with his family.



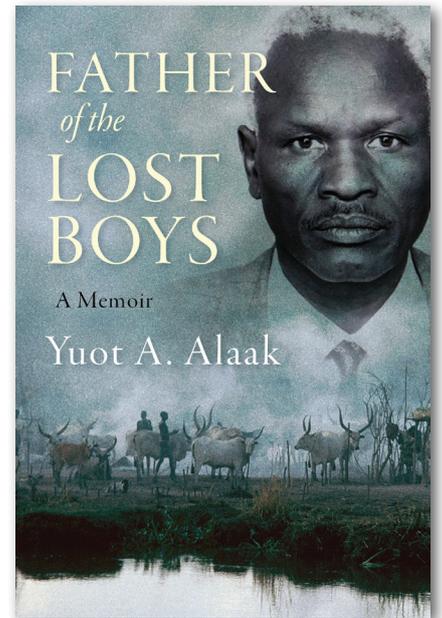
NOTES

- This is the true story of Mecak Ajang Alaak, a teacher who led 20,000 of the Lost Boys of South Sudan to safety during the Second Sudanese Civil War.
- Yuot's short story 'The Lost Girl of Pajomba' was anthologised in *Ways of Being Here* (Margaret River Press, 2017).
- *Father of the Lost Boys* is his first full-length work and was shortlisted for the 2018 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award.

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'The four writers, Rafeif Ismail, Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes, Tinashe Jakwa, and Yuot Alaak, trace their lineage to Sudan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and South Sudan, respectively, and it is their strong connection to their homelands, culture and memories that drive their own individual stories.' *Right Now*

'A fascinating and important work of narrative non-fiction. The story details the despair of the narrator and his family as they hear of their father's death, their months of mourning, and their joy at learning of his survival. It describes the dogged belief of Mecak Ajang Alaak that, when it comes to resistance, education is ultimately the mightiest weapon of them all. The narrator, Yuot A. Alaak, is a direct witness to the horrors, deprivations and extraordinary courage shown by his father and by thousands of Lost Boys.' *Hungerford Award Judges' Report*



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