



**BOOK REVIEW: A Lost Boy's tale reinforces the value of hope
amid the harsh reality for refugees from Sudan**

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Genocide on the African continent has become an all-too-familiar refrain in this age of tyrants, tribal warfare and Islamic fanaticism. What can we learn from these tragedies? And more importantly, what can we do to prevent future atrocities?

“God Grew Tired of Us” might shed some light on understanding. The backdrop of this haunting memoir is the decadeslong Sudanese civil war between an aggressor (the Muslim north) and an oppressed minority population (the Christian south).

John Bul Dau, a southern villager, recounts his harrowing story of survival, loss and redemption during this brutal conflict. Driven from his home by northern rebels in 1987, Dau survived for the next 14 years in refugee camps with thousands of other “Lost Boys” before immigrating to the United States. An award-winning documentary of the same name preceded the book.

Survival and hope are Dau's priorities. From one day's horrors to the next, he proudly clings to the traditions of his Dinka tribe and his abiding faith in God. As a leader in the Kakuma refugee camp in Ethiopia, Dau quietly plants the seeds of hope by coordinating medical care, hosting prayer meetings and attending English classes.

Upon arriving in New York in 2001, Dau is deeply moved by the United States' limitless opportunities as well as its pronounced excess. But he immediately feels a strong connection to his adopted home and views himself as being remade in this new world.

In 2005, major hostilities ended in Sudan with an uneasy truce, but religious and regional conflicts persisted. As the tragedy in Darfur so keenly illustrates, the cycle of retribution and revenge continues.

Dau was able to transcend his tragic circumstances and create a new reality. This earnest, heart-on-the-sleeve memoir reinforces the preciousness of all human life and should serve as a reality check for the rest of world.

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For more on the book or what you can do to help Sudan, go to www.startribune.com/a2402.

For more on the movie go to www.godgrewtiredofus.com.