


Lost Girl Found

By Leah Bassoff, Laura DeLuca

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For Poni, life in her small village in southern Sudan is simple and complicated at the same time. But then the war comes and there is only one thing for Poni to do. Run. Run for her life. Driven by the sheer will to survive and the hope that she can somehow make it to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, Poni sets out on a long, dusty trek across the east African countryside with thousands of refugees. In Kakuma she is almost overwhelmed by the misery that surrounds her. Poni realizes that she must leave the camp at any cost. Her destination is a compound in Nairobi. There, if she is lucky, she can continue her education and even one day convince authorities that she is worthy to go to the land of opportunity called America. Even more than the dramatic events of the story, it is Poni's frank and single-minded personality that carries this novel. In a heartbreaking final twist, she finds her mother just as she is about to leave for the U.S., and must make the hardest decision of all.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—This poignant and gripping story follows Poni, a young girl growing up in a Sudanese village. The emotional tale depicts the challenges of Poni's everyday life before the war. Against all odds, she must find a way to stay in school, deflect any young boy's attention, and fight for her life to survive malaria. But then the war comes, and everything changes. After her entire village is wiped out following an airstrike and her family is presumed dead, she must flee Sudan with a group of refugees to the safety of a refugee camp far away. Many die along the way, but Poni survives the long journey. Once she gets there, she discovers the horrors going on at the refugee camp and must escape. After she's free, a nun in Nairobi offers her shelter, the continuing education the teen has been longing for, and, ultimately, help getting to America, the land of opportunity. This book does an excellent job of evoking strong emotions from readers through its graphic depictions of life in war-torn Africa. Many are familiar with the Lost Boys of Sudan, but these authors set out to tell the stories of the Lost Girls of Sudan, and have succeeded with flying colors. This short, quickly paced narrative will stay with readers for the rest of their lives.—Candyce Pruitt-Goddard, Hartford Public Library, CT

From [Booklist](#)

Zenitra Lujana Paul Poni's South Sudanese village of Chukudum is in the warpath of the Red Army boy soldiers. The only alternative to certain violent death is walking, or in Poni's case, running, to safety. Bassoff and DeLuca portray Poni as a strong-willed girl of the Didinga tribe, who loves to learn and has a vision of herself beyond her circumstances. The harsh environment and tragic events are focal in the telling of her travails on the road to the Kakuma refugee camp, where she is paired with a strict foster mother and, finally, with stern Sister Hannah in Nairobi. Groundwood Books plays a significant role in exposing American youth to global realities through many of its titles, such as those by Deborah Ellis, who draws from her work with women in Afghanistan and in refugee camps. With this offering, Bassoff and anthropologist DeLuca contribute a title that provides a welcome female perspective to the shelf of enlightening books chronicling the Lost Boys of Sudan. Grades 6-10. --Gail Bush

Review

Winner of the Colorado Book Award for Young Adult Literature

An ALA Notable Children's Book

A USBBY Outstanding International Book

Parents' Choice Award for Fiction (Gold)

"Readers will come away with clear pictures of gender roles in Poni's culture as well as the South Sudan conflict's devastating physical and psychological effects. . . . Moving and necessary." — *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"This short, quickly paced narrative will stay with readers for the rest of their lives." — *School Library Journal*, starred review

"Poni is such a fully realized and sympathetic character that she engages readers from start to finish." — *Horn Book*

“This is a profound rendering of a southern Sudanese female heroine who must first go down into darkness before she can rise. Women around the world will savor this stunning book.” — Marilyn Krysl, author of *Dinner with Osama*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucile Brown:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important usually. The book Lost Girl Found seemed to be making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The guide Lost Girl Found is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship while using book Lost Girl Found. You never experience lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Daryl Biddle:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this Lost Girl Found e-book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still skepticism Lost Girl Found as good book not just by the cover but also by content. This is one reserve that can break don't determine book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Betty Walsh:

This Lost Girl Found is fresh way for you who has fascination to look for some information since it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having little digest in reading this Lost Girl Found can be the light food for you personally because the information inside that book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books produce itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book type for your better life along with knowledge.

Wesley Binns:

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