

## Deng Adut



Adut was born in a small fishing village, near the White Nile river in 1984. As a young boy Adut was born in a big family in South Sudan. At an age of only six he was torn from his family by the South Sudanese Liberation Army. He was made to march to Ethiopia for 33 days with barely any food. Adut watched many of his people die, many committed suicide rather than fighting, beatings and starvation. Many more were killed by firing squads while their friends were forced to watch.

Adut got an infected foot from stepping on a nail which turned into an uncontrollable infection and pain. Insects dug into the injury re-infecting and almost killing Adut. Tortured by malnutrition, dysentery also then cholera. He wanted to kill himself, but was too fragile to even get out of bed. When he was twelve he was shot in the back and was put back into hospital. When Adut was reunited with his brother John by chance, he wanted to help Adut escape. John helped Adut escape, hiding him in a bag of corn in the back of a truck, smuggling him to Kenya.

After eighteen months in a refugee camp in Kenya, Adut and John's family, were sponsored by an Australian family. To fly to Australia, when they landed in Sydney, Adut was just only fourteen-years old. Adut was deeply confused about all the Australian customs, like instead of walking to the Nile river to get water to just getting it from the tap.

Adut could not read or write English but he wanted to learn the language. Adut got a part time job at a petrol station, where he learned English from his customers. Also watching the Wiggles with his young nephew. Adut was a swift learner and enrolled in TAFE. He used dictionaries to help him learn English He chose to study accounting, because numbers were easier than words for him. Adut found a passion of learning. After completing his accounting diploma, Adut enrolled to Western Sydney University to learn Law. He was offered a full-time scholarship in 2010 and he graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree. Now he is helping people as a defence lawyer in court.

### **Bibliography**

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