



# DENG ADUT

(BORN 1980)

Deng grew up happily on his family's banana farm, in a fishing village beside the river Nile. One day, when he was six, everything changed.

War was raging in Sudan and the generals were desperate for conscripts. Soldiers arrived in Deng's village and dragged him away. For thirty-three days, he marched alongside thirty other children. Some boys were savaged by wild animals. Others were shot. And some boys just fell down dead, unable to carry on without food or water.

Deng made it to Ethiopia, where he was shown how to use an AK-47 and forced to fight for the Sudan People's Liberation Army. He was so small that the first time he fired the gun, it tore his arm out of its socket.

During the fighting, Deng saw and experienced unthinkable things, including children being blown up with grenades, and others dying from dehydration. Deng himself was severely wounded and almost bled to death.

Somehow he managed to reunite with his brother, John Mac. By hiding Deng under sacks on the back of a truck, John managed to smuggle him to Kenya. From there, the brothers secured passage to Australia, where they hoped to leave behind the brutality of war and start their lives again.

Deng has since studied law at university and become a defence lawyer. He now represents many of the Sudanese population in Australia, often for free.

In 2014, John Mac returned to Sudan to try to aid those still trapped there. He died while helping people escape across the river Nile. To make sure he's never forgotten, Deng has established a charity in his name. The John Mac Foundation aims to educate and empower people whose lives have been torn apart by war.



# HANNAH HERBST

(BORN 2000)

One day, Hannah received a letter from her nine-year-old penpal, Ruth, who lived in Ethiopia, on the east coast of Africa. Ruth wrote about how her family struggled without electricity or clean drinking water. Hannah lived in Florida, America, and she couldn't imagine life without water running from the taps and lights on at night. She wanted to help.

She had been interested in science ever since going to an engineering camp when she was eleven. At the camp, she'd realized she was the only girl. It made her feel nervous and lonely, but the thrill of programming robots convinced her to stay.

Hannah wanted to channel her passion for science into doing something that might help Ruth. She created plans for a small machine called BEACON, which stands for Bringing Electricity Access to Countries through Ocean Energy. The device would float in a body of water and use the movement of the waves to generate electricity, which could then be used to clean water and power homes.

Her first model kept breaking, over and over. It frustrated Hannah but she didn't give up, just learned from every failure and carried on making tweaks until her idea became reality.

The invention won her the title of America's Top Young Scientist. She was only fourteen. Prize money and time with a leading scientist meant she could continue improving the design of her machine. She was flown to Switzerland, where Hannah tested newer versions of BEACON on glassy green lakes. She even visited the White House to discuss her views on how we can best help those in need.

At sixteen, Hannah enrolled at Florida Atlantic University to study computer engineering. She's still at work on BEACON. When it's ready, she's not going to sell it, but open-source it, which will mean that people all around the world, including Ruth, can build it for free using her plans.

