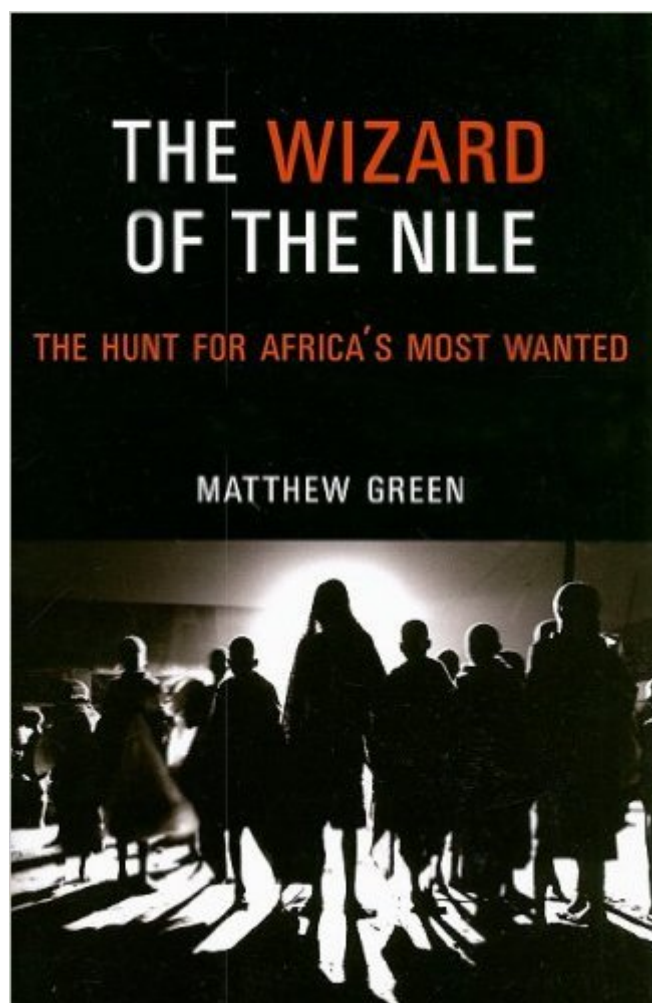


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The Wizard Of The Nile: The Hunt For Africa's Most Wanted



Synopsis

The civil war in Uganda has bled on for over two decades, spilling over into Sudan and the Congo and drawing only occasional interest from the West. The rebel insurgency in the north is led by "the wizard of the Nile," Joseph Kony, whose Lord's Resistance Army is infamous both for its wish to rule Uganda according to the Ten Commandments and its unrelenting brutality. Matthew Green journeys up the White Nile in order to answer what seemed at first a simple question: "How could one maniac leading an army of abducted children hold half a country hostage for twenty years?" His quest is complicated not only by his plunge into a war zone to find the notoriously elusive Kony, but because the conflict itself continues to resist his, and our, attempts to understand it. He meets the victims maimed and raped by Kony's soldiers; the soldiers themselves, who were first children, victims of abduction; and the political leaders who have their own reasons for preferring war to peace.

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Customer Reviews

If there is a religiously-inspired, insane, murderous fugitive leading a band of rebels hiding in the African jungle, what is the best thing to do? Why, interview him. That was the answer of Matthew Green, a young British journalist covering East Africa for Reuters. All that had to be done was to find Joseph Kony, the warlord of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) whose fanatical Christian militia had terrorized northern Uganda for over two decades and who is recognized as being among the world's worst of bad guys. Find him, and get the answer to the one simple question: "How could one maniac leading an army of abducted children hold half a country hostage for twenty years?" Getting the answer is not so simple, nor is finding Kony, but the outcome of Green's 2006 quest to find him and

Green's attempt to understand an answer to the question are contained in his *The Wizard of the Nile: The Hunt for Africa's Most Wanted* (Portobello Books). Suffice it to say that Green's history of the region and of Kony's movement does not fully explain the monstrosities the LRA has perpetrated, and he doesn't get the answers he wanted, but Green details how he was doing his job as a reporter, letting us know about the many frustrations therein and the broader explanations he obtained. There is journalistic bravado and curiosity on display here, but with self-deprecating humor, making this an enjoyably readable memoir and travelogue with dark themes. The warlord was born a peasant to a witchcraft faith-healer within the Acholi, a tribe living in northern Uganda near the border with Sudan. They had been the victims of revenge killing and cattle theft by the Ugandan government, and were in the market for a messiah.

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