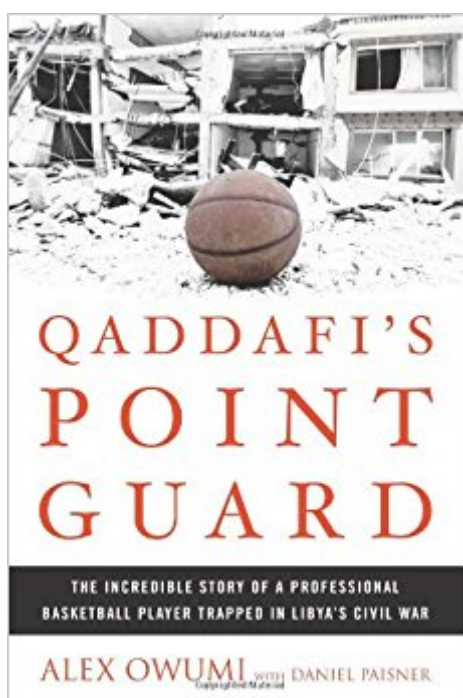


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# Qaddafi's Point Guard: The Incredible Story Of A Professional Basketball Player Trapped In Libya's Civil War



## Synopsis

A Nigerian native who emigrated to the United States at age 11, Alex Owumi's exploits on the basketball court led him to a successful career as a small college player. Undrafted by the NBA, Owumi pursued his pro basketball dream overseas, eventually signing with Al-Nasr of Libya, a state-run athletic club privately funded by the family of then-Libyan president Muammar Qaddafi. Owumi's tenure with Al-Nasr was interrupted by the Libyan uprising and resulting civil war. Imprisoned in his Benghazi apartment for more than 2 weeks with no food, phone, Internet, or hope, Owumi wondered whether he would make it out of Libya alive. Despite his weakened condition and the dangers lurking in the city, he was able to escape Benghazi and flee the country. Smuggled to a refugee camp in Egypt, he was, much to his surprise, contacted by an Egyptian team seeking his services. And so, in a bizarre, storybook ending, Owumi finished the year by helping lead the team to an unlikely league championship, earning league MVP honors in the process. *Qaddafi's Point Guard* is a book about hope and longing, conflict (cultural, political, and military), and ultimately, triumph to overcome obstacles and survive against the most desperate odds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The values we learn in basketball extend way beyond the court. I tell this to my St. Anthony players every day in practice, and here in Alex Owumi's incredible story we see it on full display. The game took this young man all over the world in pursuit of his dreams. Somehow, he found the strength to persevere in an impossible situation, against impossible odds, and emerged a champion. His book is a great basketball story, but it's mostly about the triumph of the human spirit,

about what it takes to survive. He can play on my team any day. • • Bob Hurley, Sr., Naismith Basketball Hall of Famer and author of *Chasing Perfect* • What an adventure it is to tag along with Alex Owumi as he plays his way around the globe! Part sports memoir and part historical thriller, *Qaddafi's Point Guard* is a truly unique, inspiring tale that reveals just how far one can get on heart and a jump shot--into (and out of) the most amazing and unlikely places. • • Dave Fromm, author of *Expatriate Games: My Season of Misadventures in Czech Semi-Pro Basketball* • After three decades of covering basketball, I'm always in search of the unique story. I found it in Alex Owumi's intriguing tale, which expertly mixes sports and the real world. • • Jack McCallum, bestselling author of *Dream Team* • How far would you be willing to go to realize a dream that you held dear? Alex Owumi chased his dream of playing pro basketball all over the world, and it nearly cost him his life. Candid, inspiring, and at times harrowing, *Qaddafi's Point Guard* is an extraordinary tale of basketball and survival guaranteed to stay with you long after you've turned its last page. • • Earl Monroe, Naismith basketball hall of famer and author of *Earl the Pearl: My Story* • This might be the most amazing basketball book I've ever read. In fact, it's not really about basketball at all, but rather about one extraordinary young man and his travel adventures linked to a game that has gone global; that is, into a world that is dangerous, exotic, fascinating, and full of tumult. Most of us have little comprehension of the Middle East or the violent uprising in the region that is now known as the Arab Spring, but following point guard Alex Owumi will drop you into it headfirst. You will feel it, you will hear it. And your heart will beat fast as you root for Alex simply to survive the horrors he confronts. Knowledge and growth and redemption are what Owumi ultimately wins on this very unusual court. That, and the understanding that good people exist everywhere, even--especially--during dangerous times. • • Rick Telander, bestselling author of *Heaven is a Playground*

ALEX OWUMI moved to the US from Nigeria at the age of 11. Unclaimed in the 2008 NBA draft, he followed his dream of playing basketball overseas. He currently makes his home in Atlanta but will spend the 2012 basketball season in England. DANIEL PAISNER is the author of over fifty books, including New York Times bestsellers Serena Williams's *On the Line* and Denzel Washington's *A Hand to Guide Me*. Paisner lives in Port Washington, NY, with his wife and three children.

A must-read inspirational story about an AMAZING, LIMITLESS, man who went through a traumatic experience, but had a triumphant ending while traveling the world as a professional basketball player. What I like most about this book is the love and compassion he has for his family, friends,

spouse, coaches, teammates and others. By no means does he give himself praises. He discusses his flaws, failures and admits when he's at fault. He does an extraordinary job of taking us on this emotional journey with him from adolescent to adulthood. Coming from Nigeria where he lived a very simple life with his siblings to eventually moving to the states. He soon discovered he had talent in two major American sports: Basketball and Football. Choosing one wasn't an easy task, but he eventually chose basketball. And through this sport, he went through ups and downs, joy, racism, civil war and a championship!! I found myself at times smiling, laughing, sad, puzzled, angry, crying and then happy again. His story will always stay with me and be a constant reminder to appreciate life and always have faith and keep love in your heart!! Thanks Alex.:)

Qaddafi's Point Guard is a phenomenal story that personifies the adage "survival of the fittest." Upon buying the book I knew minimal information about overseas professional sports and the civil war known as Arab Spring. This book gives a first hand account of what a professional basketball player endured as he navigated his way through the Libyan civil war. At times my heart broke at the adversity Alex had to undergo, but I couldn't put the book down! Qaddafi's Point Guard gives all of those casualties and civilians affected by war, a voice that needs to be heard. Alex's story is one I have shared countless times with my peers because I am in awe of his strength and perseverance when times seemed irremediable. I would definitely recommend this book again and again to anyone who will listen. Great job Mr. Owumi.

I enjoyed it immensely. A true life adventure of a talented athlete. From his early life as a child in Nigeria and along a long path of life lessons and hard knocks and then surviving a frightening episode of the Libyan Arab spring, he displays a great example of how relying on one's faith to endure and succeed is man's most valuable resource. Best of all, even though we are constantly reminded of all the bad in the world, Alex tells of his encounters with so many good people with kind hearts willing to help out their fellow man in need despite race and culture differences.

Great read that takes you on an adventure in the most perfect way! As a reader with no reference to the workings of basketball, Alex's writing made understanding what was going on easy to follow. His story sucked me in right away, and held me hostage until I finished it several hours later. This book takes the reader on an emotional roller coaster ride, and inspires the question, what I would have done if put in a similar circumstance? This isn't just a story of a basketball player, but the story of an overcomer!

It is just a great book that many of us who played any sport can relate to. Alex's perseverance during difficult times can only be attributed to his rearing and his participating in sports. The pressure of competitive athletics prepares the individual to overcome obstacles that must be eliminated and solved within a short span of time. The sportsman's mindset of Alex would not allow him to succumb to the pressures he faced. Although Alex was thrust into a situation that was very unexpected, he was able to come out a victor. I highly recommend this book.

Best book I've read in a very long time. The author does a really good job of taking you through the events of his life and appeals to a wide audience range, not just athletes. I laughed out loud, cried, and sometimes both at the same time. I became completely engrossed in the book, I literally could not stop reading it. There is so much to take in, I plan to read it again. Highly recommended.

I have to admit, I really enjoyed this book. I learned a lot about what it's like to be a non-NBA professional ball player and a little bit about what it was like in the middle east as the uprisings began. I'd recommend it!

Alex does not write this book to make himself look like a super star which I very much appreciated. The trials of being stuck in a terrible situation were visual and disturbing, and it makes you think about what your own options and plan would be if you were trapped in a country's revolution. For basketball lovers, it would be of greater interest.

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