

**The True
Story of
China's
Genocide
of the
Uyghurs**

NO ESCAPE

NURY TURKEL



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No Escape

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I never expected to write a memoir this early in life. A few years ago, I delivered the opening speech at the Oslo Freedom Forum, calling attention to the horrific crimes that the Chinese regime was committing against my people while the world looked on. It was the first time I'd had a chance to speak out on a global stage. I took the risk of addressing this major human rights event knowing full well the urgency with which I must sound the alarm and call on the international community to act. I am particularly indebted to Garry Kasparov, chair of the Human Rights Foundation, who invited me to speak, for his dedication to raising these issues, and to Thor Halverson and Alex Gladstein for providing me with that incredible platform. Because of this, I had the chance to socialize with authors, including American lawyer Preet Bharara and Stanford University scholar Larry Diamond, who suggested that my speech could be turned into a book.

I consulted with authors in my professional circle on the idea. While I have always believed in the power of storytelling,

I quickly learned that authoring a book is not a solitary effort. I have been incredibly fortunate to undertake this labor of love with the support and camaraderie of many. Of the authors I have been instructed and inspired by, Jim Millward, a history professor at Georgetown University, is one of the top scholars and experts on the Uyghur issues with whom I have had the honor to work closely over the years. This book would not be possible if it were not for Jim's introducing me to my literary agent, Howard Yoon. I could not have asked for a better agent. Howard is a smart, passionate, thoughtful, strategic, and super kind person who understood what I wanted to accomplish with this book. Howard believed in me and has given me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share Uyghur stories. I am also incredibly thankful to Howard for teaming me up with my amazing collaborator, James Hider. This book owes an enormous debt to James, whom I have been so fortunate to work with over the past two years. I have benefited enormously from his historical and cultural knowledge and unique experiences as a journalist. I am eternally grateful to him for serving as the intellectual engine behind this book, helping me to organize my stories, and sitting through countless hours of interviews and editing. I could not be more grateful to my US and UK publishers, Peter Joseph and Shoaib Rokadiya, and their team for the incredible support, keen insights, guidance and diligent efforts. Thank you to Grace Towery for all the heavy lifting and for keeping this project on track. Writing a book about the story of your life is a surreal process, and I am forever indebted to Howard, James, Peter, and Shoaib for their ongoing support in bringing my stories to life.

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Finally, to you, the readers, thank you for engaging with this subject matter. Please lend your voice and support and join me to stop the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity committed against my people. Finally, after reading this book, I hope you no longer feel distant or even indifferent and realize that this is about us all—civilization, humanity, freedom and pushing back against autocracy in defense of democratic freedom. Together we must prevent the next bad actors from committing genocide against other vulnerable ethnic and religious groups. We cannot let “Never Again” become an empty promise.

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