Ahmad Fuadi was born in Bayur, a small village on the edge of Lake Maninjau, West Sumatera, in 1972. Fuadi traveled to Java to fulfill his mother’s request that he attend a religious school. At Pondok Modern Gontor (Gontor Modern Pesantren), he met kiai and ustad who were blessed with sincerity to teach knowledge of this world and the next. Gontor also taught him the simple yet powerful mantra, “man jadda wajadda”- he who gives all will surely succeed.

Upon graduating with degree in International Relations from Padjadjaran University, he became a journalist for Tempo magazine. His first class in journalism was done in reporting assignment under the guidance of Senior Tempo journalists. In 1991, he received a Fulbright scholarship to take his master’s degree at the School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University, USA. Venturing to Washington, D.C. together with Yayi, his wife-also a Tempo journalist-was a childhood dream came true. While studying, they were also Tempo correspondents and reporters for Voice of America (VOA). They reported on historical news, such as the 9-11 tragedy, straight from Pentagon, White House, and Capitol Hill.
In 2004, another world window opened when he received the Chevening Award scholarship to study documentary films at Royal Holloway, University of London. As a scholarship hunter, Fuadi is always enthusiastic to continue his education and find more scholarship. He has had opportunities to live and study in Canada, Singapore, USA, and the UK.

The photography buff has served as the Director of Communication for The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation NGO. Currently, Fuadi is busy writing, being a speaker and motivator locally and internationally, and building a social foundation to aid in the education of the underprivileged—Komunitas Menara.

Negeri 5 Menara (The Land of Five Towers) has won several awards, including the 2010 Khatulistiwa Literary Award (Long List) Favorite Fiction Writer and Book from the Indonesian Readers Award. In 2011, Fuadi was awarded Liputan6 Award SCTV for the Education and Motivation Category.
B. Summary of The Novel

Alif Fikri, teenagers from the village Bayur, Maninjau is a smart kid and make his parents proud of its success will graduate with the best grades in school. At that time Alif currently study at a religious school in Maninjau. At the school he has a friend who has always been a rival to seize achievement in school, the Randai. They were both friends with the same ideals, he after the late of the religious school they will continue to pursue high school located in Bukittinggi. But fate would, Alif parents have a desire for their children to continue their education remain in religious schools. Alif vanished hopes to attend high school during this time, while he dreamed Randai SMA will continue to Bukittinggi to achieve his goals, namely After graduating high school he will continue to ITB.

Gindo Alif’s uncle advocate for school in Pondok Pesantren Madani in Java, because of his many successful. After graduating from the cottage with high religious knowledge. Finally Alif left Sumatra toward civil cottage with her father. It is the first time for Alif for her footing outside of the island of Sumatra.

On the first day Alif at Madani Pesantren, Alif met with a lot of friends who come from various parts of Indonesia who will be a friend of Alif in the cottage, as the Raja of Medan, Said of Surabaya, Dulmajid of Sumenep, Atang of Bandung and Baso of Gowa in Sulawesi. They refer to themselves as Sahibul Towers, because under the minarets while waiting for the adzan Maghrib, they often look at the clouds in the sky and imagine the clouds form the continents as they dream of each. Although the first day begins with Alif in PM tweak the ear of Tyson for being late, but Alif finally know that discipline is very important. As
punishment, he and his appointed Jasus, where to look for people who are breaking the qanun, each of the two violations within 24 hours.

Alif feel that the PM is an outstanding school with a high level of discipline, other than that in PM are the teachers is extraordinary that can open up horizons of his students, such as Ustad Salman with aphorisms from life footage figures in the world, as well as Arabic lessons. Ustad Surur with his world history, with lessons Ustad Faris Al-Quran and Hadith, Ustad Jamil with calligraphy, and Ustad Ustad Karim Badil ever studying in London with her English students who make the PM be amazed, and still many teachers others.

Friday is a special day for students in the PM. One Friday Sahibul Said tower invites to Roxburgh. With good reason, they can eventually penetrate the gate PM. Said tower in sahibul treat wandering in Ponorogo and they returned to the PM in the afternoon despite the rain conditions.

Arabic and English are official languages in MP, new santri like Sahibul tower must be able to master both languages at once. They are always bombarded with new vocabulary each finished dawn. It is one method to make the MP to the students become fluent in English. It turns out that the method is very successful. On one morning, suddenly spontaneously Alif directly said foreign language and very eloquent. “Man Jadda Wajadda”. Kiai sound leadership of Prime Minister Rais as always encourage the students in order to put up a strong intention, tried hard and pray fervently, later fought for what eventually will succeed.

One day, Alif greatly missed in the family in the village, especially in Amak. He reminisce with his mother be imagined when his teacher in elementary
Amak is a person who is very honest and hard-hearted. He also sent a letter to the PM Amak that really is an incredible school.

In Madani Pesantren, there is a container or medium for the students for his talents. As when Muhadarah, which is Alif been addressed by the ardent spirit in front of thousands of students and the cleric. He made a speech in the style of Sukarno, Indonesia's best orator. In addition, there are activities outside the classroom such as Journalism, where Alif into campus magazine journalist, theater, tahlfiz Quran, English Club, to martial arts and sports such as football favored by even Kiai Said Ustad Rais and others. Said Al - Barq team is a new champion in the game ball in the PM after defeating Al Manar is no Tyson in it, although Alif injury.

Information is essential for Pupils in MP, both local and from abroad. Alif ever contacted VOA and get books Indonesian - American conversational English very feel good, so is the others. Although there is no TV, pupil MP still can receive information through print media, but at a time when the Indonesian badminton match which involved competing in it. Roar filled the room at the time.

When the exam season comes, all students greet MP as a grand festival. Students AM very persistent at that time until the exam is completed. Report cards were distributed and vacation begins. Baso and Alif invited to the home Atang in Bnadung after the home said in Surabaya until after the holidays.

Holiday fun while Alif remained in the mind until the first day of school while sharing stories with other friends. At the beginning of school, the students return Ustad suppried with Khlaid of Egypt with his family. She has a daughter
that is Sarah. Silently the students compete to meet and take pictures with him and Alif was the most fortunate. Not only that, Alif also got a shipment Rendang Kapau and Wessel from his parents.

Nothing feels now sahib bul tower has rise sixth grade, the highest grade in Madani Pesantren. Because it had been the most senior class then they have the right to hold several positions including chairman said in the lift at the censors, the position he wanted for in the PM replaces Tyson. Raja appointed a member of the three musketeers are three people mover language center. Atang appointed as the reception. Dulmajid appointed as one of the editor of the campus magazine Magazine Sham, Alif become part of the member magazine Sham, while the more stable the Baso Discuss the English and Mathematics.

One day Alif called by KP, he felt anxious but Ustad torik Alif in fortune telling to student skeake next Friday, when there was a guest of the British embassy. This makes it difficult to sleep thinking alif speech but he managed. Then He sent his picture with Kiai Rais and Ambassador to the parents and to Randai.

Families magazine syam make daily newspaper when birthday celebration MP, because event when it very festive and important figures in the law, until the president was invited. The first day was less successful but the next day managed to flash coverage 70 civil handed over to the president. Baso confided why she was all-out to memorize Al-Quran, he wants to give a special Junah, before God someday for parents who have died and now he wants to take care of her grandmother who lived alone in the village, after finally telling Baso took the
decision to return to village to keep her grandmother there and she could teach at the school as a teacher of Arabic and he can learn to memorize the Al-Quran to my master Haji Muklas Lamaming religious figures in Gowa.

During the final exam preparation of all students are in the sixth grade to be exact concentration camp in the hall, for one bull these students occupy as a residence hall, classroom, and a discussion area, because the teachers are ready to serve if you have questions. Test day arrive, all prepared with preferably up to 2 weeks old. Exam results were announced in the hall, and Sahibul Tower graduated with excellent results. On the day of separation, all hugging each other and praying including a cleric and the brother - sister. Now Alif, Atang and Raja gathered in London, the country they once dreamed, while Baso lecturer at Al-Madinah because memorizing Al-Quran, so he got a scholarship there. Thank God it all worked out and achieve its goals because of the help of God, the support of parents, the hard work of the teachers, as well as the Arab proverb that makes them amazed " Man Jadda wajadda", who meant it would work.