

Beneath the Pale Blue Burqa

One Women's journey through Taliban Strongholds

By Kay Danes

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Few men or women would walk in the shoes of Kay Danes. In “Beneath the Pale Blue Burqa”, Danes strips back the cover of war to reveal life in Afghanistan for suffering Afghan women and children. She follows their struggles through her humanitarian aid mission to devastated war-torn Afghanistan.

In 2001, Danes and her husband Kerry (an Australian Special Forces soldier) were illegally imprisoned in communist ruled Laos for 10 months. She wrote about their ordeal in her book “Standing Ground”. In “Beneath the Pale Blue Burqa”, she once again finds herself in a dangerous position to expose the truth.

Danes' book is not a Military book about the war in Afghanistan. It is an account of her view living and working as an Afghan woman and her mission to ease their suffering as she travels through Taliban strongholds.

Danes' *'wanted her life to once again have meaning'*, after being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In 2008, she embarked on a humanitarian aid mission to Afghanistan. She soon realised that she couldn't get to the truth if she was sitting in a hotel room in Kabul. Danes and her team of four, ventured out of the safe bubble of Kabul, risking their lives to talk with the women of Afghanistan about education, health issues and the effects of war.

The people of Afghanistan suffer from the traumas of war. Danes finds that Afghan women have a great love of family, their country and a desire to live in peace. They wonder what the future holds for today's generation of Afghans. *'so many people have no hope and have no clear future for the new generation, poverty, the psychological state of the younger generation and the lack of education and no system.'*

'Soldiers wives aren't supposed to go to a war zone'. With her empathy and compassion for the women and children of Afghanistan, Danes is one woman who brought their story out of the war zone and into our living rooms.

Gordon Traill

Editor

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