

The Womens War

Kvindernes krig

by Anne-Cathrine Riebnitzsky



SPECIFICATIONS

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In Helmand, a female Danish officer establishes contact to the Afghan women, who fight against oppression, domestic violence and Taliban's reign of terror. They secretly begin to collaborate. The women receive the necessary help to start up dressmaker's workrooms as well as other projects. The international forces are these women's only chance to get rid of Taliban.

After having spent 14 months in the province of Helmand, Anne-Cathrine Riebnitzsky has written a strong, personal account of the women's struggle for a better life. It is also a gripping story about being a female soldier in Afghanistan, about the ever present risk and about the grief for fallen friends.

From the book

"I let go of the bolt and it snaps back into place with a harsh, metallic sound. It's not the first time I've heard it (...) I hope I never have to shoot. That's not what I'm here for. I'm here to talk to people. But there are no guarantees. I'll be lucky to avoid combat."

Anne-Cathrine Riebnitzsky was born in 1974 and graduated from Copenhagen's Writer's School in 1998. Having completed her Foreign Language Officer training in Moscow in 2003, she worked at the Danish Embassy in Russia, before going to Afghanistan in 2007, first as a soldier and then as a Foreign Ministry advisor. In 2010 she was awarded the Anders Lassen Award for "significant military and civilian achievements during deployment".

Her first book was *The Women's War* (*Kvindernes krig*) in 2010, which was a documentary about her work with the Afghan women. The book was shortlisted for Weekendavisen's Literature Prize. In 2012 she published her first novel, *The Stolen Road* (*Den stjålne vej*) for which she was awarded the Debutant Award. This was also nominated for Weekendavisens Literature Prize as well as for the DBC's Novel of the Year Award. *Slaughtered Pigs* (*Forbandede yngel*) was published in 2013 and earned her the Golden Laurels and Politiken's Novel of the Year Award.