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Whiskey Tango Foxtrot (The Taliban Shuffle MTI): Strange Days In Afghanistan And Pakistan



Synopsis

Now a Major Motion Picture titled *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* starring Tina Fey, Margot Robbie, Martin Freeman, Alfred Molina, and Billy Bob Thornton. From tea with warlords in the countryside to parties with drunken foreign correspondents in the city of Kabul, journalist Kim Barker captures the humor and heartbreak of life in post-9/11 Afghanistan and Pakistan in this profound and darkly comic memoir. As Barker grows from awkward newbie to seasoned reporter, she offers an insider's account of the region's forgotten war at a time when all eyes were turned to Iraq. Candid, self-deprecating, and laugh-out-loud funny, Barker shares both her affection for the absurdities of these two hapless countries and her fear for their future stability.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received a copy of this in exchange for an honest review. Kim Barker's memoir of her experiences reporting in Afghanistan and Pakistan is nothing short of remarkable. I admit to feeling skeptical that this memoir could be anything other than depressing, considering the source material and the locations, but the author was able to transfer her love of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the people who

reside there, and various aspects of the culture to the pages of this book with some biting sarcasm, engaging dialogue, and laugh-out-loud humor. I'll call myself out in this review and confess that my understanding of the politics involved in the war in Afghanistan, Pakistan or even Iraq is paltry at best; a subject I felt unable to dig into or decipher simply because I didn't feel I could trust our politicians or the media to tell the truth in regards to our motives for placing soldiers in these countries. I didn't think anyone would willingly share why this undertaking has had so much fall-out. Even though this memoir is no doubt the Reader's Digest version of several years' worth of information, experience, and research, it still manages to give the reader an in-depth understanding of the intricacies of these countries' politics, cultural and religious codes they operate under, and the roots of their dysfunction in a way that informs and entertains rather than leaves one bored and slightly comatose, like a high school freshman might feel in the middle of an endless history lecture. Kim's own personal journey throughout the book is filled with self-deprecating humor and self-discovery. She may not suffer fools lightly, but she also recognizes when her own foolishness manages to rear its ugly head.

Why Tina Fey who produced & starred in the film version of this autobiography, decided to call the movie WHISKEY, TANGO, FOX (which is NOT mentioned in the book & which 99% of the American public has no clue as to what the expression means), I don't understand because this is a compelling, interesting story written by a complex, very bright, brave woman. Why not call the movie THE TALIBAN SHUFFLE, so the public will understand what the book is about & go see the movie! Kim Barker was a struggling, inexperienced foreign correspondent (at the beginning of the book) & to try to make a career for herself she goes to freelance report in AFGHANISTAN around the time W. Bush pulled most of the troops out & sent them to Iraq. This story is about the 4 YEARS she spent living in Kabul (NOT in the Green Zone); her friendship with her Afghani driver/fixer/translator, having to contend with the Medieval laws enforced against women (she even have to wear a burka at times), her friendships with the other journalists, photo journalists & their CRAZY parties (held in western-only restaurants or houses) where they drink like fish, sing, dance into the next day... it's the only way they can blow off steam. Kim ACTUALLY EMBEDS with US troops & goes out on patrol with all male platoons. Eventually, Kim moves to Pakistan, because that is where the Taliban are... Throughout this fascinating book, she explains the history, the tribal system & why borders have no meaning & the fact that the Pashtuns & Daris are loyal to their OWN tribes, regardless of what country they live in. In Pakistan, Kim quickly learns about the ISS (Pakistani secret police) who are in-cahoots with the Taliban, who follow her, spy on her & frighten her.

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