

The fearless view of a young reporter on life in Afghanistan



Ronja von Wurmb-Seibel
Kabul of All Places
[Ausgerechnet Kabul]
13 stories of life in a war

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Ronja von Wurmb-Seibel was born in 1986 and studied political science. She was first a political editor for the weekly *Zeit* before going to Kabul in 2013 – at the time the only woman journalist there from Germany. From here she wrote her weekly *Zeit* column, "Kabul Local Time", her blog "Kabul 2014" for *Zeit Online* as well as reports for various magazines. Together with her partner, Niklas Schenck, she has made documentary films about Afghanistan for *NDR* television. Her work has received many awards. Ronja von Wurmb-Seibel still lives in Kabul.

Ronja von Wurmb-Seibel is just 27 years old when she goes to Kabul. Her plan as a young reporter is to ferret around in Afghanistan for stories that tell more than about burkas, Taliban and Bundeswehr. She finds amazing stories and goes through moments that make her despair.

"I can observe the war; I can try to describe it; but I haven't a clue what it's like living in a war. And I am less and less convinced that we Germans can judge what our war on the Hindukush has achieved. I think there are better experts for this question: nine-year-old Madina, for example, who spends her days selling colourful wristbands in front of the NATO headquarters in Kabul; or Commander Hakimi, whose staff have been dying like flies ever since the Bundeswehr moved out of Faisabad."

Ronja von Wurmb-Seibel's book is a tribute to the optimism and courage of the Afghan people – and an unusual stocktaking of the 13 years German soldiers were stationed in Afghanistan.