

A Burqa and a Hard Place

Sally Cooper

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Burqas, car bombs, and Bombay Sapphire - welcome to life in post-Taliban Kabul from the viewpoint of Sally Cooper, an Australian journalist and aid worker who took a job training journalists for a United Nations humanitarian news agency.

When she arrived in Afghanistan, Sally knew next to nothing about the country. Once in Kabul, she moved into the Karwan Sara guesthouse - and quickly met a cast of characters that drew her into the strange realities of life in "the Ghan".

Some of the many questions posed include: What do you do when you discover your male hotel cleaner wearing your clothes? How do you blend into the background at a Friday night dog fight when you're the only woman there - and you're a blonde Westerner? Under what circumstances do you decide that wearing a burqa is for your own protection? How do you live and work in a place where the car next to yours at the traffic lights could be driven by a suicide bomber?

Irreverent, action-packed, witty and at times wildly surreal, *A Burqa and a Hard Place* will tell you more about daily life in Afghanistan than anything you've ever seen on the nightly news.



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