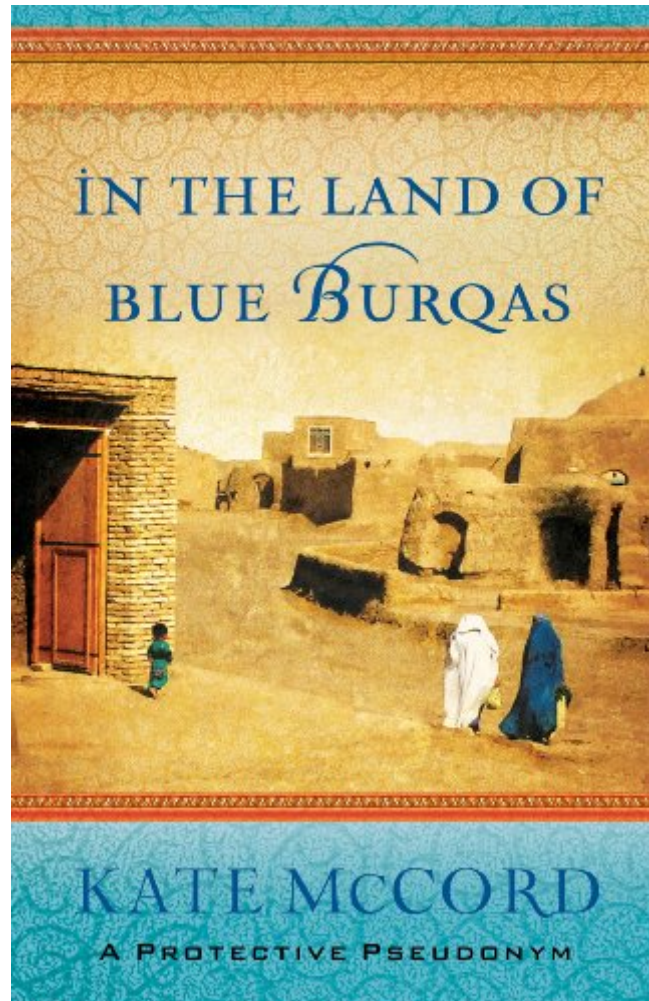




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In The Land Of Blue Burqas



Synopsis

I had lived in Afghanistan for five years. I learned the rules I had to follow. Riveting and fast paced, *In the Land of Blue Burqas* depicts sharing the love and truth of Christ with women living in Afghanistan, which has been called "the world's most dangerous country in which to be born a woman." These stories are honest and true. The harsh reality of their lives is not sugar-coated, and that adds to the impact of this book. Through storytelling, the author shows how people who don't know Christ come to see Him, His truth, and His beauty. The stories provide insight into how a Jesus-follower brought Jesus' teachings of the Kingdom of God to Afghanistan. They reveal the splendor of Christ, the desire of human hearts, and that precious instance where the two meet. All of the names of those involved including Kate's plus the locations have been changed to protect the participants.

Book Information

File Size: 769 KB

Print Length: 314 pages

Publisher: Moody Publishers (May 1, 2012)

Publication Date: May 1, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007VO7UX8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #80,019 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #44 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Evangelism #129 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Missions & Missionary Work #191 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Evangelism

Customer Reviews

Kate McCord, a protected pseudonym, takes us inside Afghanistan and inside Afghan's hearts and

culture as she shares stories of her five years living and working there for a non-governmental organization. She was passionate about befriending and helping the women, taking the time to learn their language, fitting in to their way of life as best she could and becoming acquainted with their Muslim beliefs. Kate neither writes a memoir or diary of her time there, but captures us with her storytelling of the people she learned to love and share mutual respect with. Her writing style is very engaging and paints a narrative that is informative and thought-provoking. I read and took notes, finished the book and now find a haunting desire to reread sections in order to digest and dissect the Christian truth she illustrates and interprets so well. Kate boldly, yet discreetly and respectfully, shared Biblical concepts and traded religious differences with Afghans with amazing wisdom. I would like to emulate her commitment to and desire to share Jesus with those who don't know him; with the love and tenderness she demonstrates. The Koran acknowledges Jesus as a prophet and the Torah as worthy writings. The author uses these connections to make comparisons between the teachings of the prophet Mohamed and the Honorable Prophet Jesus. The differences are strikingly obvious. The book shares many examples. The Bible teaches God is love; there are 99 names for Allah but none of them is love. Allah can't love because that would be expressing a need, and having need is never true of him. Allah is merciful only to those who obey his teachings and those who rejected the teachings of Mohamed were killed; to obey Jesus is a choice and he teaches Christians to love their enemies. God's desire is for good; Allah's desire is not defined by goodness but by laws. Jesus teaches forgiveness for all; forgiveness is revolutionary and a hard concept for Muslims. "It was easy to recognize our Teachers in one another's lives. After all, a student will become like his or her teacher." p. 62. The author was not always received warmly and she had to be careful how she approached conversations about beliefs. When pointedly asked why she hadn't become Muslim or embraced Muslim prayers, she simply stated that she was a follower of the Honorable Prophet Jesus and lived according to his teachings. Kate believes good seeds were scattered in Afghans who heard God's truth and love. She came to understand the teachings of Jesus more completely as she saw through the eyes of a culture more similar to Jesus' day than our Western culture. Her own faith grew as she sought Bible answers for the questions she encountered. She gained awe for Jesus who is revolutionary and "amazingly beautiful". I was challenged to appreciate anew the loving God I serve, Jesus, and His truth that endures and penetrates human hearts wherever it is shared. You will discover this beauty in the book as well as an idea of what it looks like to relate to practicing Muslims. I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

In the Land of Blue Burqas by Kate McCord is a revealing glimpse of life in Afghanistan. It is Kate's own story of her life and relationships with the Afghan people. Kate works for an NGO, and she found ways to help the people in many practical ways, not least of which was sharing stories of Jesus, the prophet who saves, with people steeped in traditions and afraid of the local mullahs. Miss McCord tells of the plight of the women in Afghanistan. She also talks about how she personally followed Jesus in a totally Islamic culture. Miss McCord's book is beautifully written. Her accounts of daily life, personal relationships, conversations, and her own journey of understanding are vivid. I enjoyed the glimpse into the aoulis (the family compounds) and into the living rooms of so many of her friends. I found myself almost wanting to sit on a cushion with nuts and dates in front of me, a glass of tea in my hand. Kate's descriptions are interwoven with learning. She learns the rules of what to do and not to do. She learns by successes and failures. This book is a fascinating look into a culture that to Americans would seem more than foreign. Kate has learned the culture, the religious beliefs, and has respected both without compromising her own deep faith in Jesus Christ. I love how she uses her knowledge of Islam as a starting block for telling Bible stories about the God who loves, the God who is good, the God who sacrificed to save them. This is a rich book that will help you understand the women of Afghanistan, the tenets of Islam, and the courage and wisdom of one who lived among them. I give it five stars for the excellent writing, the amazing content, and to the author for her love of the Afghan people. I can heartily recommend In the Land of the Blue Burqas to anyone.

I just finished reading this wonderful book about Kate McCord's 5 years spent working for a NGO in Afghanistan. She writes under a pseudonym to protect her life from danger. She writes of visiting many hours with women in a culture & religion where the attitude toward & treatment of women is as second class possessions. She grew to love these women and shared her faith as much as possible secretly within the walls of a woman's home over many cups of tea. She draws a stark contrast between the love & grace of Jesus vs Islam & Sharia law. This is a depressive country where women feel good about their marriage if the husband only beats them a little, where fear, judgement, condemnation, & an eye for an eye reign, where men rule & meet out punishment as they deem fit. I am left with a longing for the truth of Our Savior to be known & accepted in a poor & oppressive country. I am left feeling sad & sorrowful, yet knowing Jesus loves the people of Afghanistan & He is moving to reveal Himself to many through dreams & visions, and I yearn for that day when all will be given the opportunity to choose life & salvation.

This is an excellent read. I highly recommend it. Kate's experiences are shared in such a way that you feel as if you are in the stories. But best of all is the manner in which she dissects Muslim culture and thought. In light of today's worldwide violence from Muslims, this book provides a clear understanding of why they react with violence. And she also presents the only solution to the violence of Islam - the love of God.

Not only did I purchase this for myself, but then a friend, unaware of my purchase, gave it to me as a birthday gift. Fabulous read, so very insightful into what true Islam is. Kate McCord lived it, tells it honestly and beautifully, and one cannot come away without loving the people but more educated about the politics/religion that govern every breath they take. Don't go to inflammatory anti-Islamic posts on Facebook to get your information, read THIS, see the truth, and decide for yourself.

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