



# News from No Man's Land: Reporting the World

*John Cody Fidler-Simpson*

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**News from No Man's Land: Reporting the World** John Cody Fidler-Simpson

Packed with incident and anecdote, this is vintage Simpson and gives readers a unique insight into the way a journalist follows a story, even when the odds are stacked against them.

### News from No Man's Land: Reporting the World Details

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## From Reader Review News from No Man's Land: Reporting the World for online ebook

### Ralph Martins says

Simpson forces together two stories: an account of how his broadcasting team covered the taking of Kabul in 2001, and a set of reminiscings on journalism. Either could have made for a reasonably interesting book on its own, but combined, the result is underwhelming and the narrative unmemorable. It doesn't help that he loses no opportunity to praise the BBC and to shit all over American news broadcasters and cable TV audiences.

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### Vikas Datta says

Hugely enjoyable... The insights Mr Simpson provides into his profession and the anecdotes liberally sprinkled through the book are illuminating and priceless

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### Sarah says

Interesting read, particularly if you're interested in the mechanics behind broadcasting. My only criticism is that it's a relatively long book and I feel like a quite a lot of it could have been edited out, as he tends to ramble on certain topics and repeatedly makes the same points (usually something very self congratulatory about the BBC) throughout the book. John Simpson however is such a lovely writer, that despite finding the constant BBC praise a little sickening at times, it was still a pleasure to read.

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### Martin Mcananey says

An honest unbiased account of the facts on the ground.

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### Rick Brindle says

An interesting take on foreign affairs. Of course, John Simpson was there when a lot of these events happened, as an observer, not a participant. It's interesting to hear his take on them, and of course the effort taken for us to see his reports. Surprising that we seem to take these reports for granted, without realising the work it involves.

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### Fiona says

I nearly stopped reading this book several times at the start. The writing seemed rather ponderous and it took me a while to warm to the author but I'm glad I persevered and I am looking forward to reading his other

books.

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### **Kristal Cooper says**

Good stories about the highs and lows of being a TV reporter, but I wasn't as engaged as I would have been if it was an American journalist I already had a connection with.

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### **Paul Kearney says**

Could be two books spliced together. A travel log documenting the Attack and dangers of Kabul's fall by allied forces in 2001. Along side A defense from the perspective of 30yrs service working for the overbearing much loved "auntie" commonly known as the BBC.

The jarring gear changes from war zone to office annoyances are connected by their story of fierce competition.

The perilous dangers of the aged war correspondent. Crucial to always be at the front at scenes of horror and destruction. Along side the BBC's need to be best in quality and relevance in the fast changing media age. The juxtaposition of both the BBC and Simpson's impartiality reporting is. Is it more Strength or weakness? In today's world Where the choices (less) for unashamedly biased journalism only become more numerous younger and better funded. You're left in no doubt the ever thus advantage and future of the BBC over commercial forces can only ever be at the door of the many truly dedicated to publicly serve. John Simpson is just but one

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### **Shrenik says**

Highly readable book full of valuable insights into journalism in general and war reporting in particular.

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### **Sejong says**

In the third of his series of memoirs John Simpson, famed BBC foreign correspondent, takes us on a duel adventure as he roughs the wilds of Central Asia to try to reach Kabul before the Afghan War kicks into gear in 2002 and also ponders the purpose, ethics and history of journalism.

The duel topics hinder the book a little bit for me. Simpson is both knowledgeable and adventurous and it was fascinating reading about his exploits in Afghanistan. I felt I learned a lot about the culture, history, religion and various ethnic groups in Afghanistan, a country I previously knew very little about.

On the other hand, Simpson's long muses about the nature of journalism break and take away from the narrative and are a lot more hit-or-miss. Some passages, dealing with early foreign correspondents in 19th century Europe, are really interesting. Other passages are more boring or feel overly pandering to the BBC. Simpson's views are interesting to read in 2018, a time where mainstream journalism is increasingly questioned by skeptics. Simpson's view of the BBC as the gold standard of integrity feels dated at this point.

Nevertheless, there is a really good book and an exhilarating adventure in Afghanistan to be found here if you're also willing to entertain Simpson's discussions on journalism.

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### **Babs says**

This third volume of autobiography from John Simpson concentrates on the mechanics of newsgathering and reporting, drawing on John's vast experience. With incident and anecdote, Simpson gives readers an insight into the way a journalist follows a story, even when the odds are stacked against them, and they are at risk of great personal danger, as for instance, when, disguised as a woman, he crossed the border into Afghanistan following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre.

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### **Amber says**

So far it is interesting getting an insiders news. However, I thought it would have more focus on his reporting in Afghanistan and not so much rambling. We'll see...

Okay, now that I am more than half way through, I have changed my mind. It is interesting when he actually talks about Afghanistan but mostly he talks about the BBC and himself and how they are both so great, blah blah blah. If I had another book to read, I would stop reading this one.

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