



The Lion's Grave: Dispatches from Afghanistan

Jon Lee Anderson , Thomas Dworzak (Photographer)

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New Yorker staff writer Jon Lee Anderson arrived in Afghanistan to report for the magazine ten days before U.S. bombers began pounding Al Qaeda and Taliban forces. His dispatches provide an unprecedented and riveting on-the-ground account of the Afghan conflict, and his e-mails to the magazine — selections of which frame the pieces here — paint a vivid behind-the-scenes portrait of war journalism. From the battle for the Taliban bastion of Kunduz and the interim government's clumsy takeover of Kabul, to the search for Osama bin Laden in the Tora Bora caves and the truth of Al Qaeda's assassination of charismatic Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud — two days before September 11, 2001 — Anderson offers an unprecedented look into the forces that shape the conflict and the players who may threaten Afghanistan's future. In the distinguished tradition of New Yorker war reporting, *The Lion's Grave* illuminates a region to which we will be inextricably bound for some time to come.

The Lion's Grave: Dispatches from Afghanistan Details

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From Reader Review The Lion's Grave: Dispatches from Afghanistan for online ebook

Anne Ward says

There are books about Afghanistan by soldiers, by historians, by policy makers, but this book gives a different boots-on-the-ground perspective--the war through the eyes of a reporter. The author, a veteran war correspondent, provides a well written, insightful and informative narrative that falls just short of intriguing.

Three Stars: Good book, but there are better books about Afghanistan--read Horse Soldiers instead.

Gerald says

Anderson spent a lot of time traveling around Afghanistan just before and during the U.S. invasion in 2001. It's up close and personal and the story of Massoud is fantastic -- he was assassinated by suicide bombers on September 10, 2001. He clearly explains why this cleared the way for the 911 attacks. Perhaps the best parts of the book are the memos and emails sent back and forth between Jon Lee and his editors at the New Yorker. They very vividly portray the difficulties he was experiencing in the field in unforgettable ways.

Liam says

The way I got turned on to this book is kind of weird; I was browsing on Amazon.com in a half-assed sort of way this past Summer, and noticed that the first review of this book was apparently written by Mr. Anderson's kid brother, who essentially said that while he of course thought his older brother was pretty damn cool, it was in fact true, and everyone should read his books. I have two younger brothers myself, and I know that they have at various times over the years felt trapped in my shadow to some degree. I would hope that my own brothers have as much respect for me as Mr. Anderson's brother obviously does for him. I had been aware for many years of Jon Lee Anderson's first book, 'Guerrillas', which had been published in the late 1980s and is now considered to be a classic work, but have never read it because I thought, incorrectly, that it was solely about Afghanistan. My interests did not extend to that part of the world until roughly 7 years ago, when I was re-reading a memoir by William Colby (former U.S. DCI who died in mysterious circumstances in 1996), a man for whom I have great respect, who had decided at one point in his career to develop a secondary field of expertise in Middle Eastern affairs. In any case, when I noticed the other books that Mr. Anderson had written during the last several years, I was quite impressed & immediately placed most of them on my "to-read" list. I was lucky enough to pick up this book for a Dollar at the DPL book sale this Fall, and it has turned out to be well worth reading. This book is valuable both for Mr. Anderson's insights into the assassination of Ahmad Shah Massoud and also as reportage of the situation in Afghanistan during and immediately after the final Northern Alliance offensive against the Taliban. It is extremely well-written, and I very much look forward to reading the author's other books, particularly his biography of Che Guevara.

Aran Gilmore says

These stories provide a valuable insight into the internal social climate and political structure of Afghanistan. If you have any interest in understanding more about the Middle East, this is one of many books you should read.

Najila says

This was a short but informative book. It was the author's personal experience in Afghanistan right after the 9/11 attacks when America got involved.
