

# SOLDATEN - I KRIG OG KÆRLIGHED

## THE SOLDIER - IN LOVE AND WAR

JP/POLITIKENS FORLAGSHUS

NON FICTION

### ABOUT THE BOOKS

In February 2009, a Danish battalion was stationed in Afghanistan, with approximately 600 of the soldiers in the infamous Helmand province.

The 22-year-old Jacob Christensen, who is the central figure in this account, is one of the soldiers who volunteers to take part in the war. In 2010 he is sent to the forward base of Budwan in Helmand province.

He is filled with dreams of testing his military training in the war against the Taliban. In the desert and in the Green Zone (which was the subject of a British TV documentary), he confronts death, terrible wounds, and extremely rugged conditions.

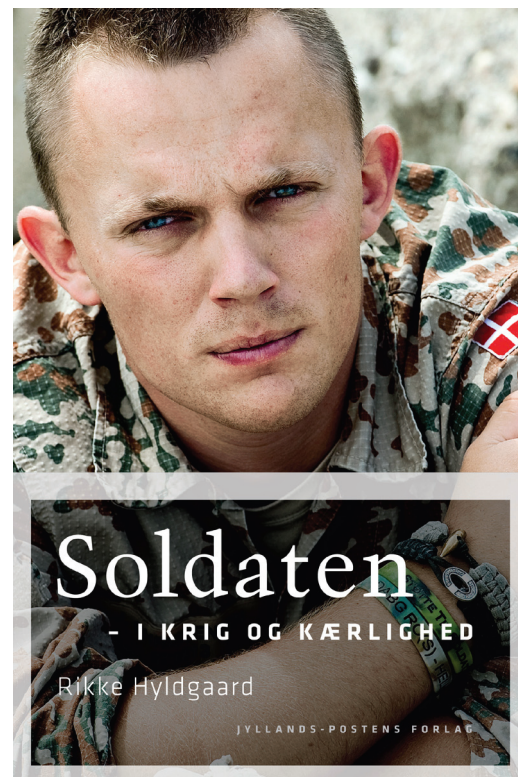
The author interviewed Jacob and his fellow soldiers as she followed him both during and after his tour of duty. We see his transformation from a young man into a war veteran, and are given a glimpse into the personal battles he wages along the way — both as a soldier and a private individual. Regarding the purpose of the war, he says:

“Danes prefer not to think too much about the fact that we’re at war. But we are. That’s okay with me if they don’t dare acknowledge it. I just think that they should have access to the facts. There’s so much misinformation going around. People think that we’re helping a lot of people, but we’re really only helping about the same number as the troops we have stationed there. Danes should know that. We can’t defeat the Taliban. We can only hold them off until the Afghans get strong enough to take over.”

The book is richly illustrated with photographs of the camp and battle areas in Helmand province, of the funeral of Jacob’s friend and group leader Jonas Pløger in August 2010, and of his family.

### THE AUTHOR

Rikke Hyldgaard is a journalist for Fyens Stiftstidende.



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