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 **“A riveting, behind-the-scenes look at the events**

**that turned six young Muslims into terrorists.” —*The Washington Post***

**“[M]ore than a captivating read… exposing first-hand personal accounts… within the terrorist movement [that] likely will hasten its demise.” —*Foreign Policy***

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**TERRORISTS IN LOVE**

***True Life Stories of Islamic Radicals***

**by Ken Ballen**

**Foreword by Peter L. Bergen**

“**Illuminating, if harrowing, real-life loves stories of Muslim extremists** . . . **[A] must–read**.” **—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch***

**“[Ballen]adds nuance to a problem that Americans have tended to understand only in terms of good and evil . . .** **a much more human—though no less terrifying—pictures of [those] committed to defeating the United States and Western civilization.” —*The Boston Globe***

One year after the capture and killing of Osama Bin Laden, with the Taliban in Afghanistan and

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula still trying to attack the United States, what have we learned? Perhaps no one has keener insight into what drives Muslim extremists than Ken Ballen, author of **TERRORISTS IN LOVE: *True Life Stories of Islamic Radicals*** **(Free Press Trade Paperback; June 5, 2012; $15.00)**—now available for the first time in paperback.

A former federal prosecutor, Congressional investigator, and head of the not-for-profit organization Terror Free Tomorrow, Ballen spent five years interviewing more than one hundred extremists throughout the Muslim world, many whom he’d met at Saudi Arabia’s “Ministry of Interior Care Center” (a “rehab” center for jihadi terrorists). Ballen says, ““I have often been cited as an ‘expert’ on terrorism. Conducting these interviews, particularly of the six people featured in the book, changed everything I thought I knew.”

In **TERRORISTS IN LOVE**, Ken Ballen shares the true life stories of:

* **Ahmad Al Shayea,** an Al Qaeda suicide bomber who survives his attack only to become fiercely pro-American;
* **A Jihadi Romeo and Juliet,** whose only release from forbidden love is martyrdom in holy war;
* **A Taliban fighter,** whose dreams dictate the battle strategy of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, in his war against the United States in Afghanistan;
* **A young Saudi billionaire prince,** who joins the jihad after his father forbids him from loving his first cousin—another Saudi prince;
* **The Pakistani terrorist,** who trains Taliban militants while on the payroll of the Pakistan Army, which harbors the Taliban leadership and Osama Bin Laden inside Pakistan, America’s ally; and
* **A Pakistani radical,** who abandons the path of violent jihad after hearing the dream of the author—the first American and Jew this devout Muslim has ever met.

Jane Mayer, staff writer at *The New Yorker* and bestselling author of *The Dark Side*, says, “Ken Ballen not only gets beneath the skin of terrorists, but all the way into their hearts, revealing unimaginable emotional and personal secrets. Ten years after 9/11, he's shed surprising light on the never-ending question about militant jihadis - what are they thinking? Anyone who wants to know ought to read this unusual book.”

**About the Author**

**Ken Ballen** is president and founder of Terror Free Tomorrow, a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that investigates the causes of extremism. He has spent more than two decades on the frontlines of law enforcement, international relations, intelligence oversight, and congressional investigations. A regular contributor to CNN, his articles have been published in the *Washington Post, Financial Times, Los Angeles Times, Foreign Policy, Wall Street Journal*, and *Christian Science Monitor*, among others. He lives near Washington, DC. For more information, visit terroristsinlove.com

To see video of Ken Ballen and Peter Bergen discussing **TERRORISTS IN LOVE**, visit:

<http://books.simonandschuster.com/Terrorists-in-Love/Ken-Ballen/9781451609219>

**\*\*All royalties from this book will be donated to Terror Free Tomorrow\*\***

**TERRORISTS IN LOVE: *True Life Stories of Islamic Radicals* • By Ken Ballen**

**Foreword by Peter. L. • Bergen Free Press Trade Paperback • June 5, 2012 • $15.00**

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**To schedule an interview with Ken Ballen about TERRORISTS IN LOVE,**

**Please Contact: Jill Siegel at 212-698-1252**; **Jill.Siegel@simonandschuster.com**

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**Praise for Ken Ballen’s**

**TERRORISTS IN LOVE: *True Life Stories of Islamic Radicals***

**(Free Press Trade Paperback; June 5, 2012; $15.00)**

**—Now Available in Paperback—**

“Written by [a] former federal prosecutor, [**TERRORISTS IN LOVE**] tracks the quotidian events that can lead sensitive young men to violent jihad. The result is an unusual atlas of extremism—**a riveting, behind-the-scenes look at the evens that turned six young Muslims into terrorists**. Heart-wrenching, haunting, [the book argues] that what all these Islamic radicals have in common is a dearth of love on earth.” —*The Washington Post*

“[S]ix fully drawn portraits of people often reduced to caricatures in American thinking. . . . [Ballen]adds nuance to a problem that Americans have tended to understand only in terms of good and evil . . . **a much more human—though no less terrifying—pictures of [those] committed to defeating the United States and Western civilization.**” —*The Boston Globe*

“**TERRORISTS IN LOVE** **is more than a captivating read. It provides fresh insight into how al-Qaeda and its jihadist allies have manipulated young Muslim men into following a hateful and destructive ideology** that kills countless innocents—mostly other Muslims. We have heard a great deal about al Qaeda’s recruitment and training process from U.S. experts, but **Ballen describes the terrorism phenomenon in the terrorists’ own words, bringing deeper understanding to the issue**.”

—*Foreign Policy*

“Ken Ballen is someone who gets it . . . [going] to significant lengths to corroborate the key facts of each individuals biography by consulting the relevant documents and witnesses he could track down. The result is **one of the most in-depth looks at individual terrorists’ lives that is currently available**, help[ing] to reverse some major misconceptions. **[I]t engages the emotions, challenging readers . . . bringing us closer to the real motives of terrorists, and thus closer to the truth**.” —*The Huffington Post*

“**Illuminating, if harrowing, real-life loves stories of Muslim extremists**. From their sexual desires and liaisons to frustration with the backlash against these romantic fantasies, to mystical dreams and fiery verses summoning them to martyrdom, the book explores intimate sparks of Islamic fundamentalism . . .

**[A] must –read**.” —*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“In **a ground-breaking book**, author Ken Ballen seeks to dispel our mislaid conceptions of terrorism in order to show the personal struggles and inner demons that inspire an individual to dedicate their life to the jihad. . . . The depth of emotion that Ballen captures is at times enlightening and a other[s] disturbing. Traveling the gradient between true love, fear, and absolute hatred Ballen shows the motivations that drive one to become a terrorist.”

—*Urban Times*