

For thirty years, Rod Nordland shadowed death. As one of his generation's preeminent war correspondents, he reported in more than 150 countries, many of which were in violent upheaval, and was no stranger to witnessing tragedy. But in the summer of 2019, during the height of India's erratic monsoon season, Nordland was suddenly faced with a tragedy of his own: he collapsed in the middle of a morning jog and was rushed to the hospital. Soon he was diagnosed with a fatal brain tumor.

After decades chasing conflicts across the globe, Nordland, now confined to a hospital bed, found the strength to face more personal conflicts. He reconnected with his estranged children and became closer with them than he ever thought possible. He repaired a friendship with a best friend that had been broken for twenty years. The arrogance and certitude that dominated his every action was replaced by a lucid sense of humility and generosity that persisted even after he left the hospital. Nordland's tragedy became, in his own words, "a gift that has enriched my life."

*Waiting for the Monsoon* is the exemplary story of confronting death with both eyes open, and of the human capacity to persevere even in the most difficult of times. With tremendous clarity, grace, and courage, Nordland has delivered a powerful final assignment, revealing how facing the unknown can transform experience and change our relationship to the world around us.

ROD NORDLAND is the *New York Times's* Pulitzer Prize-winning international correspondent at large. Formerly the paper's Kabul bureau chief, he has worked as a foreign correspondent in more than 150 countries. Previously he was *Newsweek's* chief foreign correspondent, serving as Baghdad bureau chief from 2003 to 2005. He was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for news reporting and also a finalist for a Pulitzer in international reporting from Southeast Asia. He has received two George Polk Awards, several Overseas Press Club Awards, and many other honors. He is the author of *The Lovers: Afghanistan's Romeo and Juliet*.

READ BY PETER GANIM

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The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.



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