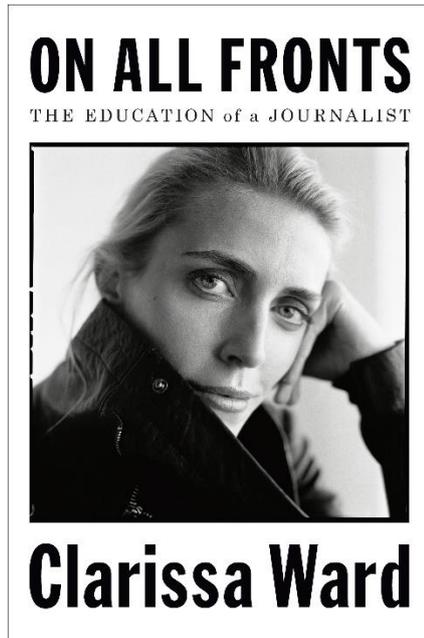


## PRESS RELEASE



# On All Fronts The Education of a Journalist Clarissa Ward

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*"On All Fronts takes the reader on a riveting journey of storytelling. . . From Russia to China to Syria, [she] navigate[s] the most intense of human experiences while finding the tools to stay emotional."*

**Lynsey Addario, author of *It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War***

*'I had no sense at the time of what conflict reporting actually entailed. I didn't understand that straddling different worlds would require taking a wrecking ball to much of what I thought I knew about life, politically and personally. That gradually, but unmistakably, there would be a smashing. A smashing of my preconceived notions, a smashing of what I thought I knew about history, about myself. I didn't realize that I would have my heart broken in a hundred different ways, that I would lose friends and watch children die and grow to feel like an alien in my own skin. I didn't understand that the privilege of witnessing history came at a price. But in that moment, only one thing mattered to me: I had a calling.'*

The recipient of multiple Peabody and Emmy awards, Clarissa Ward is a world-renowned conflict reporter. In this strange age of crisis where there really is no front line, she has moved from one hot zone to the next. With multiple assignments in Syria, Egypt and Afghanistan, Ward has been based in Baghdad, Beirut, Beijing, and Moscow. She has seen and documented the violent remaking of the world at close range. With her deep empathy, Ward finds a way to tell the hardest stories. ON ALL FRONTS is the riveting account of Ward's singular career and of journalism in this age of extremism.

Ward had a privileged but lonely childhood. She found her calling as an international war correspondent in the aftermath of 9/11. From her early days in the field, she was embedding with marines at the height of the Iraq War and was soon on assignment all over the globe. But nowhere does Ward make her mark more than in war-torn Syria, which she has covered extensively with courage and compassion. From her multiple stints entrenched with Syrian rebels to her deep investigations into the Western extremists who are drawn to ISIS, Ward has covered Basher al-Assad's reign of terror without fear. In 2018, Ward rose to new heights at CNN and had a son. Suddenly, she was doing this hardest of jobs with a while new perspective. ON ALL FRONTS is the unforgettable story of one extraordinary journalist – and of a changing world.

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**Clarissa Ward** is British and is CNN's chief international correspondent based in London. For more than 15 years Ward has reported from front lines across the world from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen to Ukraine to Georgia - during the Russian incursion in 2008 - and Iran. She has received multiple awards for her reporting and in 2016 she received the prestigious Excellence in International Reporting Award from the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) for her outstanding war reporting in hotspots like Iraq and Syria.

Most recently Ward contributed to CNN's breaking news coverage of the crisis between the US and Iran, tracking the story from the US, Iraq - including the site of an Iranian missile attack - and Ukraine with every major development.

Ward recently investigated Russia's use of mercenaries in a two-part series for CNN, 'Putin's Private Army.' For this months-long investigation, Ward secured the first on-camera interview with a former fighter for Wagner - Russia's most notorious private military contractor. She travelled to the Central African Republic, to look at growing Russian mercenary activity on the continent. After visiting a diamond mine with ties to a Russian oligarch, Ward and her team were followed and intimidated by a car full of Russians. After their reports came out, they were targeted by a Russian media propaganda campaign trying to discredit their reporting.

Last year Ward also had unprecedented access to Taliban-controlled territory in Afghanistan for an exclusive report, '36 Hours with the Taliban.' In 2018 she reported extensively on the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, even obtaining exclusive footage that showed a Saudi operative posing as Khashoggi in an attempt to cover up the killing. Ward also fronted 'Shadow Over Europe,' a CNN investigation into the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe in 2018, traveling to Poland, Germany and France to see how these countries were tackling this rise of anti-Semitic incidents and stereotypes.

In early 2016 Ward travelled undercover to rebel-held areas in Syria - where almost no Western journalists had visited in over a year - to report on what life was like there under the Russian and regime bombardment. Less than 24 hours after arriving, Ward witnessed an airstrike on a fruit market that left 11 dead.

On an undercover assignment to Syria in 2014, she interviewed two Western fighters about why they joined the jihad there. One of the jihadists was a young Somali-American from the Midwest, making Ward the only Western journalist to have interviewed an American jihadist fighter inside Syria since the start of the civil war. While at CBS Ward interviewed world leaders like U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2012 and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in 2013, challenging them both on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's brutal crackdown inside Syria.

Ward's career in journalism started in 2002 as an intern at CNN's Moscow bureau. She has since been based in Baghdad, Beijing, Beirut, Moscow, New York and London, speaking fluent French and Italian, conversational Russian, Arabic and Spanish and basic Mandarin.

**[Clarissa Ward is available for interview and to write articles](#)**

**[Extracts & photographs are available](#)**

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