

BEVERLY DEEPE KEEVER

Death Zones & Darling Spies

Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting



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Death Zones and Darling Spies

Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting

Beverly Deepe Kever

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Book Synopsis:

In *Death Zones and Darling Spies*, Beverly Deepe Kever describes what it was like for a farm girl from Nebraska to find herself halfway around the world, trying to make sense of one of the nation's bloodiest and bitterest wars.

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Book Description

In 1961, equipped with a master's degree from famed Columbia Journalism School and letters of introduction to Associated Press bureau chiefs in Asia, twenty-six-year-old Beverly Deepe set off on a trip around the world. Allotting just two weeks to South Vietnam, she was still there seven years later, having then earned the distinction of being the longest-serving American correspondent covering the Vietnam War and garnering a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

In *Death Zones and Darling Spies*, Beverly Deepe Kever describes what it was like for a farm girl from Nebraska to find herself halfway around the world, trying to make sense of one of the nation's bloodiest and bitterest wars. She arrived in Saigon as Vietnam's war entered a new phase and American helicopter units and provincial advisers were unpacking. She tells of traveling from her Saigon apartment to jungles where Wild West–styled forts first dotted Vietnam's borders and where, seven years later, they fell like dominoes from communist-led attacks. In 1965 she braved elephant grass with American combat units armed with unparalleled technology to observe their valor—and their inability to distinguish friendly farmers from hide-and-seek guerrillas.

Kever's trove of tissue-thin memos to editors, along with published and unpublished dispatches for New York and London media, provide the reader with you-are-there descriptions of Buddhist demonstrations and turning-point coups as well as phony ones. Two Vietnamese interpreters, self-described as “darling spies,” helped her decode Vietnam's shadow world and subterranean war. These memoirs, at once personal and panoramic, chronicle the horrors of war and a rise and decline of American power and prestige.

Pre-Publication Praise

“Few correspondents engaged in the protracted, ugly war in Laos and Vietnam were as diligent and perceptive as Beverly Deepe. As energetic and intrepid as her male counterparts, she slogged through dense jungles, flooded rice fields, and thick rubber plantations, filing dispatches that shed insights on that futile conflict. Her account of that experience is authoritative, credible, lucid, vivid, and above all readable.”—Stanley Karnow, author of *Vietnam: A History* and winner of the 1990 Pulitzer Prize in history

“Illuminating her role as the longest-serving U.S. correspondent covering the Vietnam War, Beverly Deepe Kever examines her dispatches and shows the disastrous consequences of failed policies. Her book presents the unadorned story of a young Nebraska woman who risked her life reporting on a war Americans should not have fought.”—Maurine Beasley, author of *Women of the Washington Press: Politics, Prejudice, and Persistence*

“Beverly Deepe Kever has given us a wonderful memoir not only about the intrigues of the first years of the Vietnam War but also of the men and women, including herself, who tried to untangle all the confusions for us. A must read.”—William Prochnau, author of *Once upon a Distant War*

Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book's [web page](#) for the most current post-publication praise.

Author Biography



Beverly Deepe Keever is professor emerita at the University of Hawaii and the author of *News Zero: The New York Times and the Bomb*.

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