

Book Synopsis

Lynn Milburn Lansford's new book, *Beslan: Shattered Innocence*, tells the tragic story of the deadly Chechen attack in Beslan, Russia, in September of 2004, which resulted in the deaths of 331 innocent people, including 186 children, out of 1200 hostages taken. Like no other book, it details the terrible experiences of the Russian people involved in this crisis, their experience with terrorism, and the overwhelming loss of innocence, particularly for the children involved, directly and indirectly.

This remarkable book also focuses on the story of an American mother who has devoted her life to helping children such as these -- not only by helping to make the world aware of what these poor children have endured, but also by delivering and coordinating critically needed aid in the form of relief supplies for the children and their families. It is a story of courage, love, and hope, as well as proof that any one of us can use our positive energy to help the children all over the world who are victims of ongoing terrorism and political violence.

Beslan: Shattered Innocence goes far beyond the headlines, and never stoops to the uncaring sensationalism exhibited by far too many elements of the popular press. Instead, this much-needed book provides fascinating and valuable in-depth personal stories from an experienced and sensitive writer who actually visited Beslan. Fulfilling a promise to the people of the city, the book introduces the reader to the victims of the hostage crisis and ensuing battle, as well as the Chechen rebels and Russian bureaucrats who were responsible for this avoidable tragedy. Touching upon the many facets of the event -- political, religious, psychological, and social -- *Beslan: Shattered Innocence* is a clear voice of warning, as well as hope.