



SHAHANA: THROUGH MY EYES

Rosanne Hawke

The first book in a new series from Allen & Unwin that explores the fragile worlds of children living in contemporary war zones.

Shahana lives alone with her young brother in the shadow of the Line of Control, the border patrolled by Pakistani and Indian soldiers that divides Kashmir in two. Life is difficult, but Shahana ekes out a living with her beautiful embroidery. Then she finds a boy lying unconscious near the border. Zahid is from across the Line of Control, and Shahana takes a terrible risk by sheltering him. But how can she give Zahid up to the authorities when she knows he'll be imprisoned - or worse?

The extent of the conflict in Kashmir, both in terms of the length of time and number of people affected, inspired the story of *Shahana*. Author Rosanne Hawke says; '*Kashmir has the longest running conflict in the world today, and probably the least known. There have been four generations of victims in this conflict. Many Kashmiris have fled the conflict in occupied-Kashmir - two million live now in Azad Kashmir. There are an estimated 100,000 orphans of the conflict, 70,000 have been killed, 54,000 widows recorded, and 8000 enforced disappearances. (Jammu & Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society).*'

Shahana is the first book in the Through My Eyes series, edited by Lyn White. Lyn is a primary school teacher librarian and ESL teacher with more than twenty years experience and expertise in children's literature. The second book in the Through My Eyes series, *Amina*, by J.L. Powers, is set in Mogadishu, Somalia and will publish in September 2013.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rosanne Hawke is author of over 20 children's books, including *Marrying Aameera*, *The Keeper*, *Soraya*, *the Storyteller*, *Mountain Wolf* and *Taj and the Great Camel Trek*, which won the 2012 Adelaide Festival Award for Children's Literature. Many of her books have been shortlisted or notable in Australian awards. For ten years Rosanne was an aid worker and teacher in the Middle East. She is a Carclew, Asialink, Varuna, and May Gibbs Fellow, and a Bard of Cornwall. Rosanne lectures in Creative Writing at Tabor Adelaide. She is based in South Australia.

ROSANNE HAWKE IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW.

PUBLISHED: 22 May, 2013

IMPRINT: A&U Children

RRP: \$15.99 **FORMAT/PAGE EXTENT:** Pbk, 192pp

CONTACT: Lara Wallace ph (02) 8425 0187, mob 0409 381 464

email laraw@allenandunwin.com

WE ASK THAT NO ARTICLE OR REVIEW APPEAR BEFORE PUBLICATION DATE WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION FROM ALLEN & UNWIN