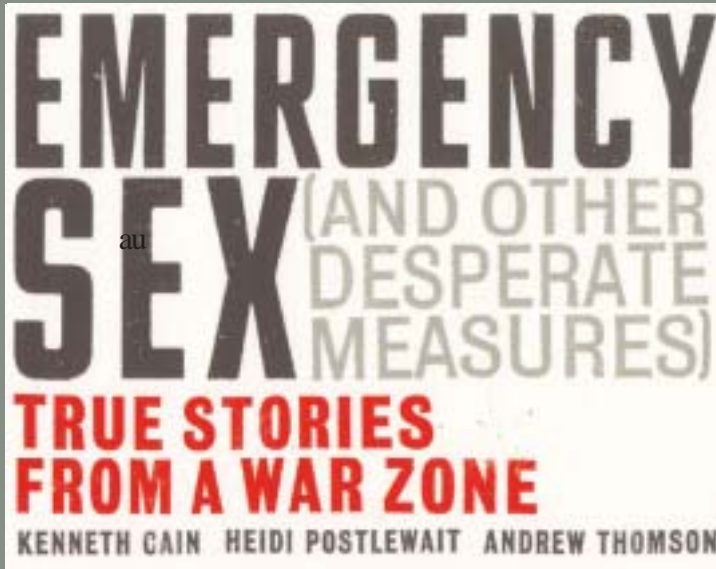


out in paperback 27 february . randomhouse (eburypress); rrp \$27.99



"If blue-helmeted UN peacekeepers show up in your town or village and offer to protect you, run" Andrew Thomson

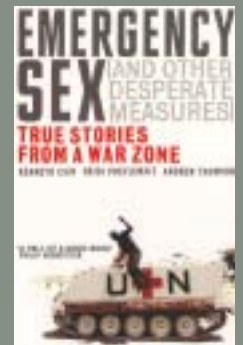
Sacked expat kiwi UN doctor and memoir co-author returns home to receive award

Dr Andrew Thomson, the expat kiwi co-author of *Emergency Sex and other desperate measures: True stories from a war zone* is coming home to receive a '2006 Distinguished Alumni Award' from the University of Auckland.

Andrew will also be giving public talks in Wellington (Monday, 6 March, 7pm, National Library) and Christchurch (Tuesday, 7 March, 7pm, Hotel Grand Chancellor) while he's here.

His visit coincides with the 27 February release of a new edition, which has a different cover and also includes a montage of snap shots. These capture the highs and lows of life for the three UN peacekeepers who wrote this whistle-blowing book, which is highly critical of the current UN culture and administration.

There are plans to develop and produce a new hit TV drama series based on *Emergency Sex*, which is being described as a *M.A.S.H* for the 21st Century.



Mr Annan tried unsuccessfully to stop the book from being published and two of the three authors, who were still with the UN at the time of the book's publication, knew their jobs were at risk. The UN had no whistle-blowing policy to protect their "own", despite political pressure for this bastion of humanitarian rights to develop and implement such a policy.



Andrew Thomson, who topped his Auckland School of Medicine class in his graduation year of 1983, has dedicated his life to humanitarian aid and peacekeeping work for both the Red Cross and UN. He was sacked not long after *Emergency Sex* was published. Or rather, after 12 years serving in the UN medical team, he was informed that his contract would not be renewed for 2005.

During his time with the UN, Andrew was seconded to work for the Bosnian and Rwandan Criminal War Tribunals charged with the gruelling and disturbing task of

exhuming mass graves, gathering forensic evidence to prosecute those behind some of the worst 20th century crimes against humanity.

Andrew's cause was taken on by GAP – a high-powered, government-appointed legal team that takes on whistle-blowing cases. GAP won the high-profile case and not only was Andrew reinstated with the UN, he was also promoted to Senior Medical Officer.



Many people dream of changing the world to make it a better place. *Emergency Sex* is an unforgettable memoir, set in the early 1990s, of three young people, who join the UN in Cambodia and become fast friends in the heady atmosphere of the country's first democratic elections. All of them have been attracted to peacekeeping, in countries both dangerous and alluring, for different reasons.

Andrew Thomson strives for a better world through his life-saving work. His co-author Heidi Postlewait, a New York social worker is in need of a challenge and a pay check, and Ken is fresh from Harvard, disillusioned by corporate law and full of idealism.

As their stories interweave through the years, from Somalia and Haiti to Rwanda and Bosnia, the trio reveal a world of witnessed atrocities, corruption, primal fear, desperate loneliness and base desires.

This journey through a violent decade challenges their lives and personalities, leaving them utterly changed – both broken and enriched. This first-ever account from UN civilians on the frontlines is a powerful, devastatingly honest memoir about people who went somewhere for all the right reasons and wound up facing challenges they never knew existed.

MORE ABOUT ANDREW THOMSON



Since graduating from the Auckland School of Medicine in 1983, Andrew Thomson has dedicated his life to humanitarian aid and peacekeeping activity working as a medical officer for both the Red Cross and the UN in New York, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Haiti. He is currently on long-service leave and is in Cambodia with his wife, Suzanne and daughter, Clara.

For more information please contact Jennifer Balle at Random House NZ on 09 444 7197 or email jennifer@randomhouse.co.nz

