

PHOTOGRAPHER'S SELECT / AFGHANISTAN 2002-2008

# The Kids





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The photographs in this collection are the favorites from my years in the Afghan War: 2002-03 as a Green Beret, 2006 as a civilian contractor and freelance journalist, and 2008 as a freelance embedded journalist. In 2002-03 my team's base was a house in a residential area of Jalalabad--on Chocolate Alley, as we called the dirt lane because the kids would daily run alongside our trucks crying "Cho-co-latt! Cho-co-latt!", their term for candy. Below is one of the Chocolate Alley girls making the Afghan culture's "Take my picture" gesture.





**The Kids**  
**Afghanistan 2002--2008**

Photography by Paul Avallone

Camera 2002-2003: Kodak 620 (Nikon w/ Kodak digital back), with a Nikkor 28mm and a Soligor 105mm  
Cameras (2) 2006--2008: Nikon D100, with a Tokina 12-24mm F4, a Tamron 28-75mm F2.8-32, and a Tamron 28-200mm F3.8-22

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Paul Avallone found at: [AfghanyWhammy.com](http://AfghanyWhammy.com)

Front Cover: 2003. Chocolate Alley's sassy Natasha, often playing hard-to-get for my camera, this day using a litter strip of film as her veil; a wonderful irony to me in this time of my own transfer to the new digital film age.

Rear Cover: 2003. In a rural village, for a ten-year-old girl and her little brother tending the family herd all day, the first sighting of an American soldier, uniformed and armed, is a natural curiosity to which the boy can gaze, but the girl by the culture's demands cannot, no matter how natural and great the urge.

Below: Self-portrait. 2003, Nangarhar Province.



Chocolate Alley. Kids and their blue-burqa moms.





Rural boy.







Orphanage school. Jalalabad.





Hillside slums above Kabul.



Kuchi (nomad) boy.





Kabul. Boys' class.



Girls' class.





Rural girl, bold yet half hiding, as her brother reaches to pull her away.



Curious, tentative, half hiding.

Proper--hide the face from the male.

Yet, curiosity gets the better of her.





Kyber Pass. Tote boy.





Kyber Pass. Tote kids.







Kabul. Beggar dwarf.



School under a UNICEF tent. Rural Nangahar.





Kabul. Window-wash boy.





Chocolate Alley giirl.



Kabul. Street kid.



Physical therapy for rickets.





Jalalabad schoolgirl defying the norm, brazenly uncovered for me.



Chocolate Alley kids demonstrating the curling tongue trick that I taught them and only my very favorite, Tomana, could do.





Jalalabad schoolboy.



Shin War farm boy.



Poppy landowner's son.



One quiet afternoon, her mother brought her into our Chocolate Alley compound makeshift clinic, and one of our terps hurried to find me to urge me to come see the beautiful little girl to take a picture of.





Chocolate Alley's Shasta dressed up for EID.



Kyber Pass.





Chocolate Alley sisters and baby brother. Older one, a pure natural "model" beauty.



The "model beauty" sister. EID feast day.







Henna-painted hands for a religious feast day. Chocolate Alley.





Chocolate Alley. Bollywood actress card.



Kabul. Among the hillside shanties.





Rural outdoor school.



Chocolate Alley boy. It worked, I took his picture.





Kabul. Spandi boy selling wisps of good-luck smoke.



Village kids.





Classroom. Jalalabad.







Chocolate Alley tough kid.







Orphanage. Kabul.



City shopkeeper merchant's kids.





Chocolate Alley.



Stuck in traffic. Kabul





Dari Nor boy.



Rain-made swimming hole. Nangarhar Province, 2006.





Afghan TV. Ghazni Province.



Afghan TV. Patika province. 2008.







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