



RELEASED: Wednesday October 12, 2016

Australian Story: When Plans Change (Sally Faulkner)

An EXCLUSIVE two-part special airing Monday October 17 & 24 at 8pm on ABC & iview

Brisbane mother Sally Faulkner reveals in detail for the first time the story behind a desperate attempt to get her children back from Beirut, which landed her in jail along with a 60 Minutes crew and a recovery team.

The CCTV footage of two children being snatched from the streets of Beirut was startling.

News reports filtered in of a desperate mother, an Australian television crew and a child recovery team, all detained in a Beirut jail.

The woman behind the headlines was Sally Faulkner.

She was found by police with her children, six-year-old Lahela and three-year-old Noah, hiding in a safe house in a poor part of Beirut.

Ten months earlier, her estranged husband Ali Elamine had requested to take the children back to Lebanon for a holiday. He then called Sally to say the children would not be coming home.

What had begun as a custody battle now turned into an international incident.

Just who is the woman behind the headlines and how did it come to this?

Australian Story traces the relationship between Sally and Ali from its romantic beginnings through a rocky path to its bitter end. Surprisingly, this was not the first time Ali had separated Sally from one of her children.

When Plans Change goes to the heart of the question of what went wrong.

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