Topol has reported from more than two dozen countries. She has been a Nation Institute Investigative Fund grantee, an International Women’s Media Foundation fellow, as well as a Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting grantee. She is a contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine, and has been published in the Atlantic, Businessweek, Esquire, Foreign Policy, Fortune, Harper’s, Newsweek, The New Republic, New York Magazine, Outside, Playboy, Popular Science, Politico, Slate, and Travel + Leisure. She has appeared on BBC, CNN, and NPR.

Topol won the 2012 Kurt Schork Award in International Journalism for her coverage of the civil war in Libya for GQ. Her trip to meet the Bedouin tribesmen who kidnap foreign tourists in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula for The Atlantic is featured in Best American Travel Writing 2013. Her story about a Siberian town besieged by bears is anthologized in Out There: The Wildest Stories Ever Featured in Outside Magazine. Her story for the New York Times Magazine about Nigerian boys abducted and forced to fight for Boko Haram received a citation from the Overseas Press Club for best international reporting on human rights. It was also a finalist for the 2018 Dart Awards for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma.

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