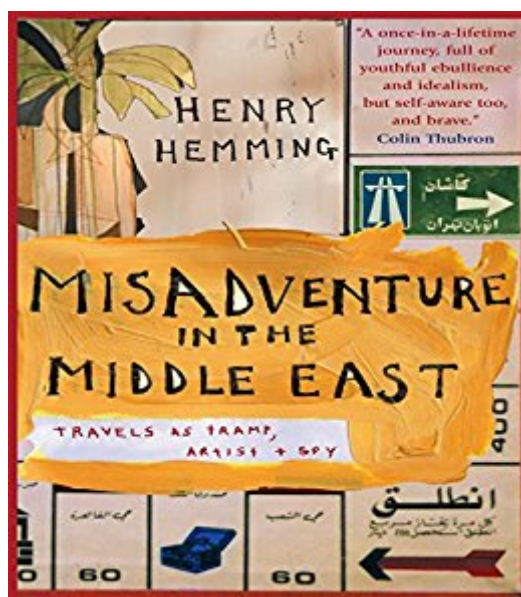


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Misadventure In The Middle East: Travels As A Tramp, Artist And Spy



Synopsis

When Henry Hemming set out in a pick-up truck called Yasmine to make a portrait of the Middle East, he had no idea what he would find or where he would be able to go - he wasn't even sure how he would earn enough money to stay on the road for a year. Henry Hemming's extraordinary journey takes him from the drug-fuelled ski-slopes of Iran via some of the region's secret beaches, palaces, army barracks, police cells, nightclubs, torture chambers, brothels and artists' studios to a Fourth of July party with American GIs in one of Saddam's former palaces. Everywhere he goes his status as artist gets him into places he would not have been allowed otherwise. As the invasion of Iraq intensifies, he realises that to finish his portrait of the region he must go to Baghdad and find the artistic renaissance there that he has heard about. In so doing he will risk his life. Throughout, he meets young people who share their dreams, doubts and passions, revealing a young and unpredictable Middle East that flies beneath the radar of nightly news bulletins. In these meetings, he also begins to understand what he himself represents, be it British spy, Muslim extremist, jihadi, tramp, bohemian, street-cleaner, Baghdadi, or, from time to time, artist. "Misadventure in the Middle East" offers a unique, evocative and highly original account of his journey.

Book Information

File Size: 1339 KB

Print Length: 304 pages

Publisher: Nicholas Brealey Publishing (November 26, 2010)

Publication Date: November 26, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01HPVHHB6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,682,584 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #76

in Books > Travel > Middle East > Iraq #1052 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction >

Travel > Middle East #1759 in Books > Travel > Middle East > General

Customer Reviews

If the author was my son, I would've shot him when he got home. Actually he reminds me often of some of those incidents your children tell you about after they've returned from travel to a less than "safe" country. A fun read, partially because you know he got home all right or he wouldn't have written the book. Naive artist type- great fun.

"Misadventure in the Middle East" is a beautifully written, fun and easy read while at the same time being very topical and insightful. Full of funny anecdotes about what the author and his cohorts ran into while spending a year in a pickup truck driving throughout the middle east making art, while at the same time infused with insight and held together with an exciting and constantly developing story line. I read it in a day or two of travel - couldn't put it down. Must reading for anyone interested in the middle east, art or travel. His website's great too - [...]

bought it after spending 1 month travelling in Iran & was missing the ME vibe. I like his book alot. It is very true & he looks at things objectively- and its funny too. he does so many random things in random polaces & I like that as well. BTW, Iran is the friendliest country i have ever visited- such warm, giving people. And I am even an American.

A great book that tells a different story about Middle East, its people, culture, and modern life. Highly recommended for those who want to get an alternative view of the Middle East, also recommended for those who are planning to travel or move to the ME countries...

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