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Everything Is Possible In Yemen: The Misadventures Of A First-Time Journalist In The Middle East



Synopsis

Heather Murdock is an American intern at a local newspaper in Yemen, spending her days proofreading copy and dreaming of being a real reporter. After months of struggling to get her stories published, an editor in Boston mistakes her for someone else and gives her an assignment. Soon after her tentative entry into the world of professional journalism, Heather is flush with new assignments. With the enthusiasm of a newbie and the grace of a bull, she traverses the country, visiting child brides, refugees, rebels and ordinary Yemeni families. In every corner of Yemen's ancient cities and lawless countryside, she finds humor, hardship and blazing Yemeni determination. Over the Christmas holidays, Yemen unexpectedly becomes famous when a young man attempts to blow up a plane over Detroit. The man says al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen built the bomb sewn into his underpants and the media turns its eye towards Sana'a. With so few reporters in town, Heather is suddenly thrust into the spotlight, covering al-Qaeda for CBS Evening News, Time and The New Statesman. But life in Yemen does not stay so glamorous for long. After almost a year in the country, Heather is arrested for visiting rebel strongholds in the south. While being detained, she finds her "prison" is as unusual as the characters inside. Guards offer to help her escape, while her captors work to prove that Yemeni hospitality extends towards everyone, including detainees. Other officials are not as kind, making it clear that there are some stories in Yemen that they want left untold.

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Customer Reviews

AMAZING writing? No. But fast paced, highly readable, yes. And super-interesting. Reads like what it is-- the tale of a young, somewhat foolhardy, definitely adventurous, bright and ambitious young reporter, who visits and really gets a feel for parts of the world that can seem quite closed to an outsider. Her fresh, not-entirely-polished approach to being a reporter makes her experiences read and feel more "authentic" than they might if she had already "arrived" as a reporter and she was working from inside a giant news corporation. I am personally very interested in Yemen (having married into a Yemeni family), so enjoy the "American woman in Yemen" aspect to this book. Her descriptions reflect my own experience having visited Yemen-- that it feels like an ancient, fairy tale society in some ways; that Yemenis not only live up to usual standards of Arab hospitality but are friendly above and beyond that; that it is really and truly so different from the US that it is like entering a different reality; that being an American woman in a highly gender divided society can be somewhat useful as one is almost a "third sex, " with some of the privileges of both men and women, from a Yemeni perspective.

"Everything Is Possible in Yemen: The Misadventures of a First-Time Journalist in the Middle East" by Heather Murdock, is an amazing book and a fantastic read. This book captivated me on the first page and by the end of the first part, I was completely hooked, I could not stop reading. The further I went into the book, the more I wanted to know. It is about the journey of a journalist, new to the job. Her travels take you to Yemen and the detailed description of her surroundings, sounds and smells transports you deep into the city of Sana'a and to the dusty roads of the countryside. She introduces you to the Yemeni culture and people, which at times, leaves you with a knot in your throat. You get a sense of truth from her, she wants you to know more and she wants to tell you, which makes this book captivating until the end. Her adventures brings you through all the emotions; excitement, fear, anger, sadness and happiness. I highly recommend this book, it's a true story that makes you wonder why, but in the end you know.

In her book "Everything Is Possible in Yemen: The Misadventures of a First-Time Journalist in the

Middle East" the author, Heather Murdock demonstrates a strong aptitude for story-telling that brings to life a fascinating series of characters and circumstances that leave a lasting impression on the reader. At times frightening and at times hilarious, Murdock's story is about much more than a journalist's first trip to an unfamiliar place, it's also a firsthand account of the extraordinary transformation the heart and mind undergo when coping with the forceful emotions of fear, passion and curiosity. I strongly recommend reading "Everything Is Possible in Yemen: The Misadventures of a First-Time Journalist in the Middle East". You will not be disappointed!

This was a truly enjoyable reading experience. I enjoyed it from the moment I started reading. Ms. Murdock does a good job of story telling and I found it to have just the right amount of humor to make me keep up with it. Read it in the first day after I downloaded it. As a ps, I have to say that although I have never met Heather, she is the daughter of one of my cousins. That's how I found out about the book, but my opinion stays high regardless. You can't go wrong reading this book.

This fascinating story tells the story of a courageous young journalist who takes her responsibility to share the news with the world seriously. I was captivated from the moment I started reading the book. I had never really thought about the ongoing danger that journalists around the world experience on a daily basis until I read the book. This book is a must read for journalism students or anyone who cares about what's going on in other places in the world. It is beautifully written and a great read.

So So read. I didn't find it interesting myself. It's the second journalist book I've read about Yemen & this was the least interesting. This was the kindle edition. Get from the library if you want to read. Not worth buying. Sorry so harsh.

This book will definitely make for a very interesting and entertaining reading, not only for those interested in journalism or Yemen, but to all interested in different cultures, life's uncertainty and overcoming challenges in general.

Loved this book. Would love to read more by this author, but a little less swearing.

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