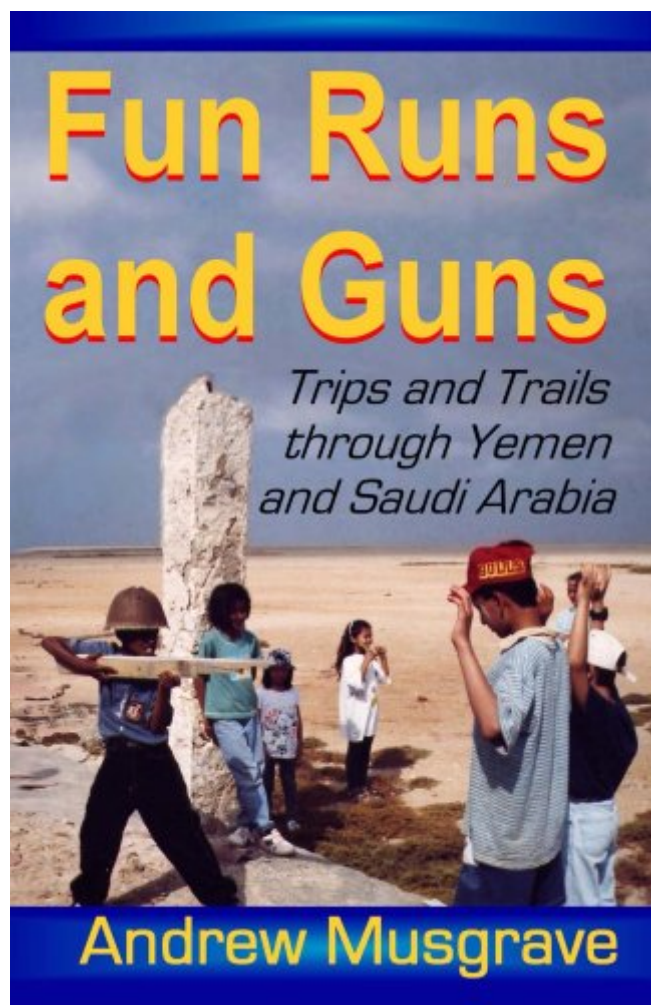


The book was found

Fun Runs And Guns - Trips And Trails In Yemen And Saudi Arabia



Synopsis

What would you do if someone shoots at you? This is the dilemma faced by the author, not once, but several times while working in the Middle East. Andrew Musgrave focuses on the impact that a gun culture has on the feelings of a peace-loving teacher living in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. As well as peering into daily life in Sana'a and Jeddah, we are taken on a succession of adventures through impoverished villages and incredible landscapes into the sparse and threatening mountainous heart of Queen of Sheba's realm. Encounters with gunmen, bad-tempered eagles, and homeless cats, his passion for running, the challenges of escorting vulnerable school kids across a taxing terrain, while evading kidnappings, floods, earthquakes, sandstorms and fires all furnish a yarn full of surprises, sometimes funny sometimes frightening. More seriously, he reflects on how issues of women's rights, censorship, religious and social customs impinge on an expatriate's life. General Petraeus, the former US Military Commander, has warned this region is becoming an Al Qaeda breeding ground of political unrest, yet the author reveals that despite its reputation for guns he found it a life-enhancing and richly rewarding place to dwell.

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Customer Reviews

An enjoyable read. The author has succinctly captured the Yemeni way of life. His love of the country, its people, and its culture shine through. I appreciated the self-deprecating manner in which he writes, his respect for the exotic customs almost verging on gullibility. The narrative rambles engagingly, side-tracking us like an Alastair Cook monologue, returning later to follow his original train of thought. My only frustration lay in his occasional comparisons with Saudi Arabia - I had to be alert to realise when he had switched countries. This is a magical part of the world made inspirational by this enjoyable collection of intriguing anecdotes. I thoroughly recommend this book.

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