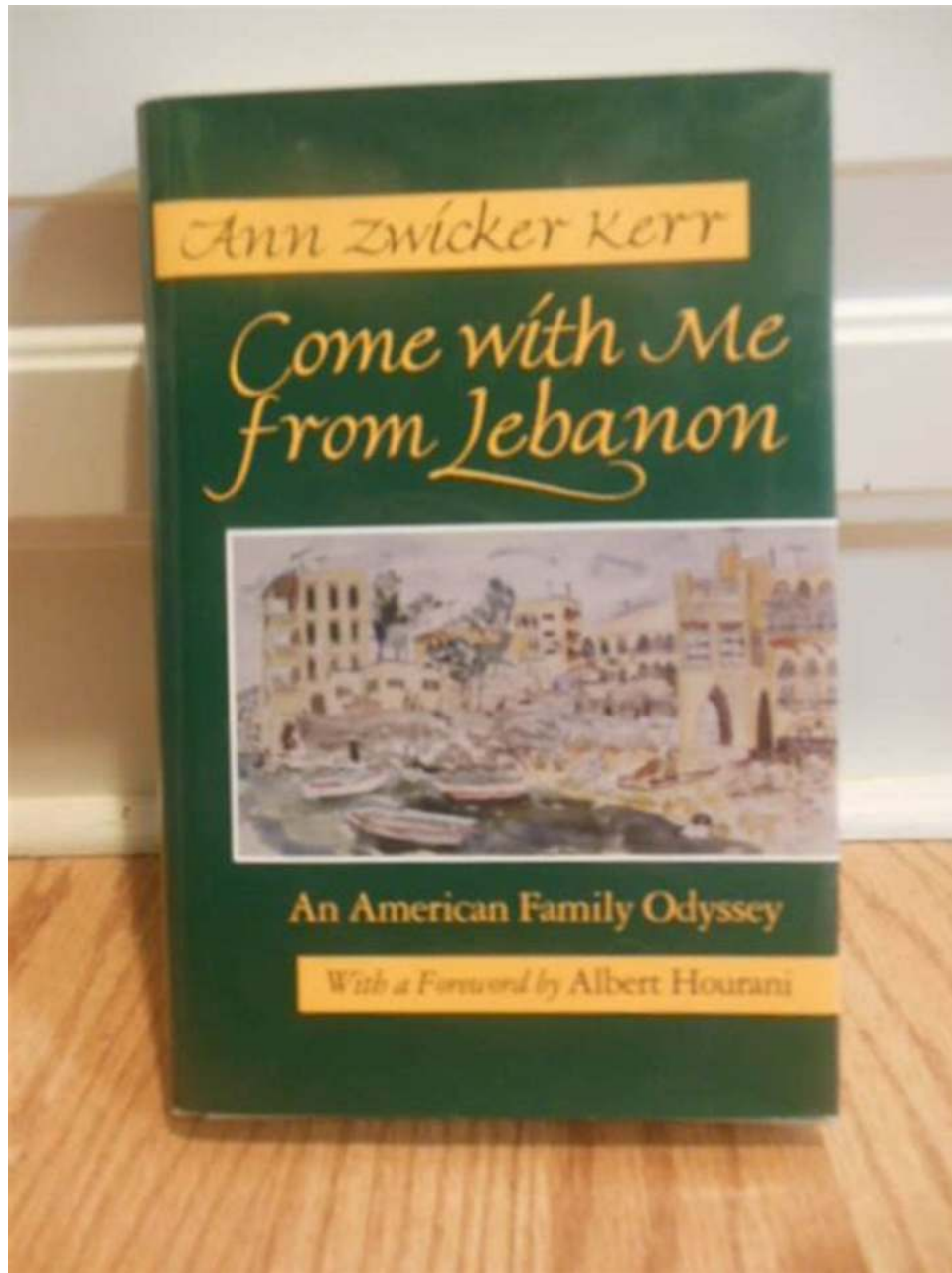


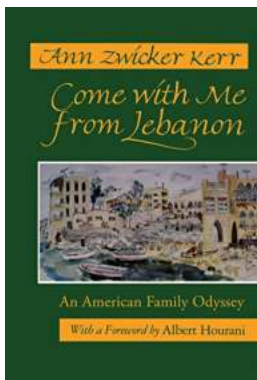
An American Family Odyssey: Exploring Contemporary Issues in the Middle East



In recent years, the Middle East has been a region constantly making headlines due to its geopolitical complexities and contemporary issues. It is a place where cultures clash, ancient history intertwines with modern lives, and political tensions often reach boiling points. To truly understand this region, one must delve deeper

and explore the complexities through the eyes of its inhabitants. This article will take you on an inspiring journey into the heart of the Middle East, following the remarkable lives of an American family who decided to embark on an odyssey to this tumultuous land.

Meet the Smiths, an adventurous American family comprising Jim, Lisa, and their two children, Emily and Michael. Unlike many tourists who only scratch the surface of the Middle East, the Smiths have chosen to live in the region for a year, immersing themselves in the local cultures, traditions, and current affairs. Their odyssey is not just a vacation but an opportunity to understand the intricate tapestry of contemporary issues that shape the Middle East today.



Come with Me from Lebanon: An American Family Odyssey (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East)

by Ann Zwicker Kerr (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4619 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 344 pages



Chapter 1: Arrival in the Land of Contrasts

The Smiths' journey begins in Jordan, a country caught between the ancient wonders of Petra and the vibrant capital city of Amman. As they walk through the narrow Siq leading to the Treasury in Petra, they can't help but be awestruck by the architectural genius of the Nabateans. At the same time, they hear echoes of

the country's struggle to accommodate waves of refugees fleeing the neighboring conflicts.

Chapter 2: Bridging the Divide

Next stop, Israel and Palestine. The Smiths set foot in this contested land with an open mind, seeking to understand the complexities and narratives from both sides of the conflict. They visit Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Jerusalem, where they witness the heartbreaking history of the Jewish people. Later, they meet Palestinians in the West Bank, listening to their grievances and hopes for a future of peace and coexistence.

Chapter 3: The Colors of Revolution

Egypt, a land of ancient Pharaohs and endless history, also witnessed the eruption of the Arab Spring in 2011. The Smiths find themselves in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the revolution that toppled a regime. Amidst the vibrant chants and fluttering flags, they become witnesses to the resilience and determination of a nation yearning for change.

Chapter 4: A Journey Through the Sands of Time

As the Smiths venture into Saudi Arabia, a land relatively unexplored by outsiders, they traverse vast deserts, exploring ancient ruins and discovering the nation's rich cultural heritage. Amidst the towering dunes of the Empty Quarter, they find the true essence of Arabia with its Bedouin traditions and hospitality.

Chapter 5: Surviving the Storm in Lebanon

Beirut, known as the Paris of the Middle East, is a city that has witnessed devastating conflicts. The Smiths experience the indomitable spirit of the

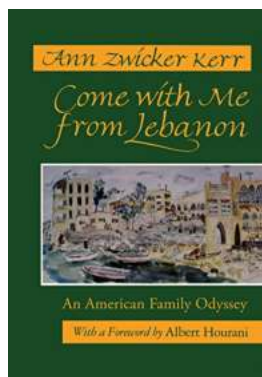
Lebanese people as they rebuild their lives after years of war. Amid the ruins of what once stood, they discover a resilient society filled with hope and creativity.

Chapter 6: Jordan Revisited

After a year of exploring the Middle East, the Smiths return to Jordan, their initial arrival point. They reflect on their incredible journey, the connections they have made with people from different backgrounds, and the lasting impact this odyssey will have on their lives. They have come to realize that the Middle East, despite its challenges, is a region rich in history, diversity, and above all, the resilience of its people.

In , the Smiths' American family odyssey in the Middle East proves that stepping beyond the headlines and immersing oneself in the cultures and experiences of a region is crucial to understanding its complexities. By exploring the diverse countries and engaging with their people, the Smiths have gained a unique perspective on the contemporary issues faced by the Middle East. Their journey reminds us that amidst the conflicts and challenges, there is beauty, resilience, and hope in this remarkable region.

So, are you ready to embark on your own odyssey in the Middle East?



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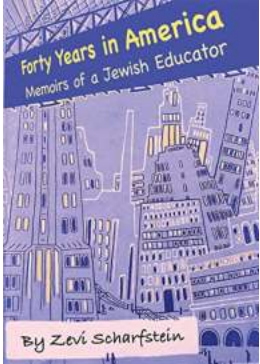
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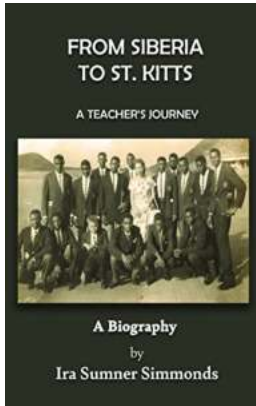


Ann Kerr's is a personal account of an American family during the most tumultuous years of Beirut's political strife. It begins with the tragic assassination of her husband Malcolm Kerr, one of the most respected scholars of Middle East studies, in 1984, seventeen months after he became president of the American University of Beirut. She retraces in detail the events that brought them to the Middle East, and reaches back into her childhood to describe a lifelong affinity for Lebanon. For a young American woman caring for a family in Lebanon and Egypt, life was like nothing she had ever known, but Ann Kerr approached it with a sense of adventure, which would help her deal with the beauty, chaos, and the ultimate horror of life during the country's most volatile years of the last three decades. The personal saga of her family and the events surrounding her husband's untimely death merge with the political episodes that have shaped U.S.-Arab relations since World War II.



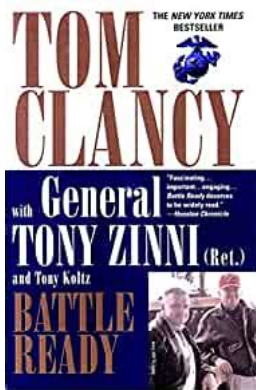
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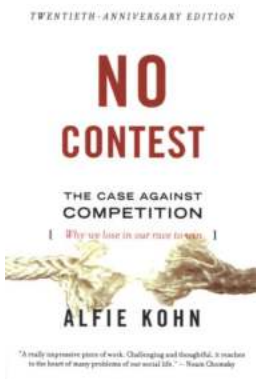
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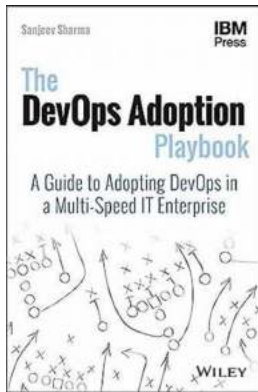
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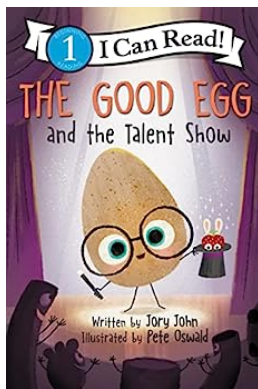
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