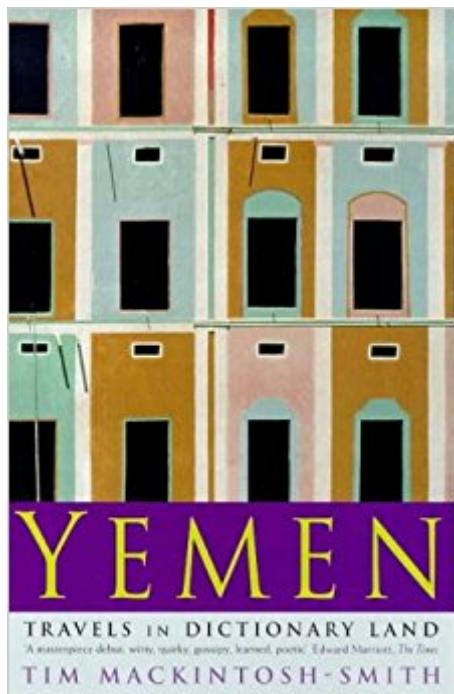


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Yemen: Travels In Dictionary Land



Synopsis

Originally published by John Murray this is an account of Smith's time in Yemen, which started as a sabbatical year in 1982 and grew into fifteen years. Smith travelled the mountains, the desert and the sea and brings the country, the people and three millennia of history to life.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. It is obvious that Tim Mackintosh has a love for Yemen. Many of us will never have the pleasure of visiting this exotic country of old history and ruins. I took one point away because the print is so small I could hardly read. I do wish publishers would think of us over 40 crowd who have plenty of time to read, but our close up vision has started downhill. I'm not read for the heavy large print copies but I really appreciate the books with larger print than this one.

This is a book of poetry. MacKintosh has immersed himself so much in the culture that he has produced poetry as prose, in the highest genre of the Arab. I try to write critical reviews. To weigh the good and the bad. I can't think of anything bad to say about this book. Whether or not I get to see the place, Mackintosh makes it come alive with his vivid writing and incredible sense of Arabic history. He writes mythically, so that his stories- his or retold by others- remain with you for years. I wish I had the time to get to all the places he describes! But it's not just history that Mackintosh brings in. He has a wealth of understanding of linguistics, especially of the Arabic world. Throughout the text he indicates the historical links with his experiences, through the languages of the people. He even brings in literature and history from other lands in a smooth manner that fits completely

with the narrative. I'm sitting here in a netcafe in Ta'izz, Yemen, having just reread the book in my travels this past week in the country. It's great to read a book about the country you're traveling into simultaneously see the places you want to visit, and read about the places you've just finished. After reading his account of the Rock Palace outside Sana'a, I realized I had to go visit it. I talked with an expat who gave me a lift, who said he met Tim once- a guy who truly became Yemeni. I think about him as I try out qat. I'm constantly looking at where he writes about and looking on the map to see where I am. There are four kinds of people who should read this book. Those planning a trip to Yemen. Those traveling or living in Yemen. Those who have been to Yemen. And those who never plan to do any of the three, but like good literature. It's a pleasure to read in itself.

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