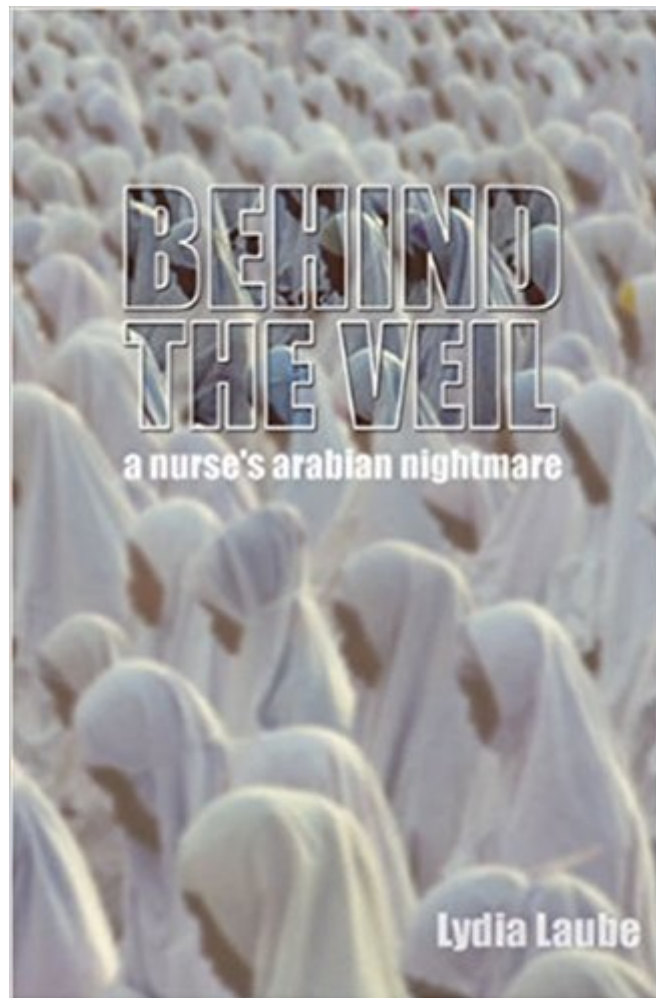




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Behind The Veil: A Nurse's Arabian Nightmare



Synopsis

Lydia Laube set off in search of adventure to work as a nurse in Saudi Arabia. Soon she found herself embroiled in a society that did not allow women to drive, vote, or speak to a man alone. As soon as she stepped off the airplane, Lydia's passport was confiscated and quickly she felt like a prisoner, trapped in a country with no means of escape. Wearing head-to-toe coverings in stifling heat, and battling against unfathomable bureaucracy, Lydia maintained her sanity throughout her year of service. This is the gripping account of one woman's resolve to survive in the hostile environment of a Saudi Arabian hospital.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In twenty-five years of nursing, Lydia Laube has delivered babies on her knees in New Guinea, tended clinics in dug-out canoes in Papua, worked on a junk in Hong Kong harbour, served the poor in the slums of Naples, and flown with the Australian flying doctor service. She has been marooned by floodwaters in rugged mountains, cut off by cyclones on a tropical island and cast adrift in a disabled boat during a typhoon. None of this prepared her for her experiences as a nurse in Saudi Arabia. She is currently taking a break from her adventures and living in her hometown of Adelaide.

BEHIND THE VEIL chronicles the story of an Australian nurse in Saudi Arabia who obviously did not fully appreciate what she was in for living and working in a culture with such extreme constraints on women. Deidre Rubenstein works the ironic and irreverent humor from the start. She never loses the hint of the author's surprise at her own naivety; in setting out on this rather mad

adventure or her pride in the stubborn profession-alism that sees her through. This story is presented with the tone and intimacy of a series of letters home (although, in reality, such letters would have been thoroughly censored.) J.E.M. (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book confirms the shaky foundation on which the Saud family rules. If it were not for the Mutawas (the renegade self-proclaimed keepers of the faith) who run around hitting and whipping people for the merest violation and the chopping off of hands, and of course the oil, the Saud family would collapse. They rule by money and fear. The author was forced to watch a whipping of 2 men and a girl for the mere exchange of a video. Clearly, God Himself would not have done this, but their twisted interpretation of the Qur'an allows them to perpetrate the most vile acts against other humans, women in particular. Women have no rights. They cannot drive nor travel without permission from their husband or other male family figure. They are treated like infants and are considered less than camels and donkeys. They are nothing more than property, for breeding. If a man wishes to kill his daughter or sister for real or imagined contact with a man, no problem. Women are expendable. This book is important reading for anyone contemplating living or working in Saudi Arabia. You've been warned.

An eye opener on how life is in other country's! enjoyed how different women are treated and how men rule this part of the world

Although the facts of living are atrocious for women, this novel left me with a desire to explore Jeddah in the Middle East!!!!

I really enjoyed this book. It opened my eyes to how bad things are for health care workers in some of the richest countries in the world. I am glad when I was younger and had a wanderlust, that I didn't end up in Saudi. This book is well worth reading

I enjoy reading about the culture and life styles of the people of the Middle East. I have spent time and in the Middle East and it is interesting to read the views of others!

I've read everything this writer has written, she is a great story teller, great sense of humor, very entertaining books.

I've only read the sample thus far, but will continue to read the book. The two star review is because, while I realize this was first published in the 1991, the author appears narrow minded and racist in her views. First of all, Australia (her home country) is not in the "west" as she refers to it, while it may have western ideals. Since she states she's been to Singapore before, she should know the traditional dress is called a kebaya, or even cheongsam would be more appropriate than calling it a "kimono" which even many who aren't versed in Asian culture know is Japanese. She refers to Korean nurses as "cheap labor" (they may very well have been cheaper than hiring "western" nurses in Saudi in 1991), but South Korea's wages and living standard were probably comparable to Australia's in the 90s, and its economy has grown to one of the largest in the world since then. It is more common to refer to the Middle East and India as "Asian" in Britain and Australia, but this in the US "Asian" usually refers to East Asian countries. It seems this author had a superior and narrow minded view of her own culture and others before writing this book and moving to Saudi.

An Australian nurse decides to go Saudi Arabia for the change of pace. She ends up in Medina where the entrance to infidels is forbidden so hospital where she is supposed to work outside it. From her first she encounters major issues with housing, shopping, dressing and local culture. This book deserves 5 stars-not only the author tells about her work and stay in Saudi Arabia, she also does this in a quite humorous manner. There were so many times I was laughing out loud because her remarks were hilarious. And on the personal note-after reading this book, it's clear if you are a woman, and you wish to go to Saudi Arabia, you must be insane or glutton for punishment

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