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Desert Governess: An Inside View on the Saudi Arabian Royal Family

By Phyllis Ellis, Gordon Medcalf

Eye Books. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Desert Governess: An Inside View on the Saudi Arabian Royal Family, Phyllis Ellis, Gordon Medcalf, Badly in need of a new start in life, Phyllis answered an advertisement: 'English Governess wanted for Prince and Princesses of Saudi Arabian Royal Family.' She soon found herself whisked off to the desert to look after - in The King and I tradition - the children of HRH Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, the King's brother. In this frank personal memoir Phyllis describes her sometimes risky reactions to her secluded, alien lifestyle in a heavily guarded marble palace, allowed out only when chaperoned, veiled and clad from head to foot in black. Both as a Governess and as a modern western woman she constantly ran up against frustrating prohibitions and unexpected moral codes, only a few of which she could work her way around - usually in the interests of her young royal charges. Phyllis explores sympathetically and from the inside her impressions of the country, of Islam, of Muslim beliefs and customs, and of Saudi dress, cuisine, and attitudes to the family, women, marriage and divorce. Above all she gives a fascinating account...



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Reviews

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