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My Beautiful Bahrain

My Beautiful BAHRAIN

A collection of short stories and poetry
about life and living in Bahrain



Compiled and Edited by Robin Barratt



Synopsis

Bahrain is beautiful, for many reasons- but it is mainly beautiful, in my eyes, because it is a country that embraces. The historical and cultural metamorphosis of this island is reflected in the aggregate of identities, accents and mini-cultures. Like the pearl, Bahrain has many layers and that only further adds to its lustre. The past attests to its present and the future is silent in waiting for its becoming. (Nawf T. Al-Bassam). Bahrain's beauty is not aesthetic, it is not visual - it's beauty is much deeper, hidden, and much more personal. In this way, and to many people, Bahrain is beautiful. And, as many of the stories in this book will demonstrate, Bahrain's beauty is fundamentally the subtle, gentle beauty of the island, it's way of life and the friendliness and compassion and openness and warmth of it's people. With lots of fascinating personal 'life' stories, quite a few tourist-type information and fact based contributions, some wonderful poetry, an occasional piece of fiction (set on the island) and a mixture of other diverse and captivating prose, with fifty contributions from forty writers from fifteen countries, My Beautiful Bahrain is both varied and unique, and an undeniably indispensable guide for travellers and visitors to the island, as well as a 'must-read' book for people living here, doing business here, or just interested in what life is like living on this tiny, tiny island in the Arabian Gulf.

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Customer Reviews

This booklet was put together by a community of writers in Bahrain. It contains two short stories and two poems. Though the stories were interesting reflections by two different writers about their experiences living in Bahrain, they were not very helpful in helping me understand what living in Bahrain is like today. This book is really more like a writers' journal giving amateurs a forum to publish their works. I felt I was reading term papers with the title Why I like Bahrain. Nothing wrong with that, but not the kind of information I was looking for. The second story in the book was more of an "I remember when" as the author gave a lot of information about places that used to exist in the 70's and now are hotels, parking lots or the like. Reminded me of the old joke about a lost driver asking a local farmer how to get to their desired destination and he replies with directions such as "turn left after you get to where the old red barn used to be!" Entertaining, but not very helpful. This is neither a travel guide nor book about Bahrain history and culture. I will try some of the other books available that really are travel guides and books on Bahrain history and culture.

This book is brilliant. A great writing style which makes you want to just keep reading right through to the end. Very cheap as well so well worth reading. Well done to Robin Barratt.

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