

[FREE] If the Sun Doesn't Kill You, the Washing Machine Will

# If the Sun Doesn't Kill You, the Washing Machine Will

*Peter Wood*

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**Peter Wood : If the Sun Doesn't Kill You, the Washing Machine Will** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised If the Sun Doesn't Kill You, the Washing Machine Will:

Transported by his employer to work in the Middle East, Peter Wood became enmeshed in the bizarre and hilarious lifestyle of the desert state of Qatar. In this book he reveals how the most mundane operations of daily life can prove bafflingly complex as he describes the driving test that involves reversing round an obstacle course for 30 minutes, the elaborate weather forecasts in a country where the weather is the same for 364 days a year, and the country's first takeaway pizza restaurant, which is impossible to locate.

From Publishers Weekly Dry seems to be the operative word in Wood's humorous recollections of his time in Qatar. Assigned there in 1991 to coordinate transportation of goods needed to complete the North Field Gas Project, this echt -Englishman describes driving, eating, the Gulf Times , religious observances, weather (or lack thereof) and goats with a wit as arid as the desert realm. Wood's rhetorical skills are unquestionably fine, although some American readers may begin to suspect that they don't speak English at all but some trans-Atlantic pidgen. They may also find Wood's commentary on the transitory life in Qatar a tad xenophobic. The tone of the first two-thirds of the book gets its laughs at the expense of Qatar's media, small-business owners and quaint customs. The last third is put forth as a

penance for these insular, surreal anecdotes, in the hopes that the reader will understand that it was all in good fun. Wood truly believes he is a London Yankee in the Emir's court, until he realizes that the strength of Qatar is its resolute people. Illustrations. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.