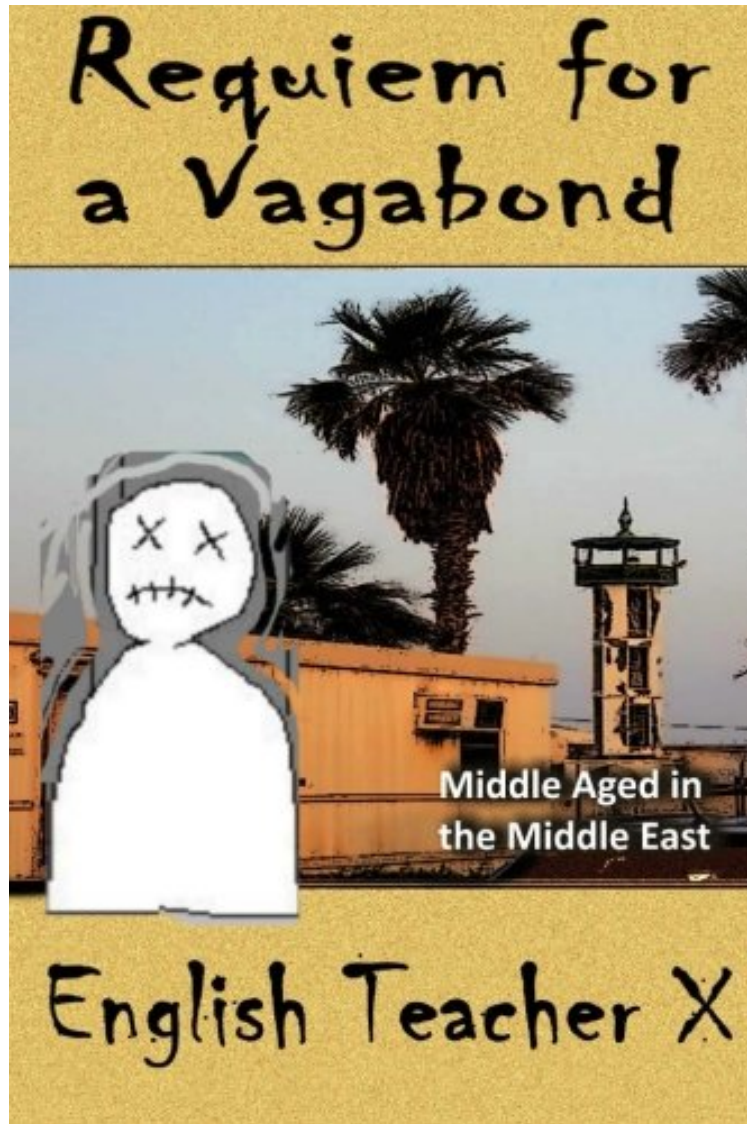


[FREE] Requiem for a Vagabond: Middle Aged in the Middle East (English Teacher X)

Requiem for a Vagabond: Middle Aged in the Middle East (English Teacher X)

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English Teacher X : Requiem for a Vagabond: Middle Aged in the Middle East (English Teacher X) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Requiem for a Vagabond: Middle Aged in the Middle East (English Teacher X):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. "Nothing makes you feel like a member of your own country like fleeing to another one."By Whistlers MomAs an elderly spinster, I suspect that I'm NOT the demographic this author

expects to reach with his frequently raunchy memoirs about his life abroad. Well, I read and enjoy them anyway and you can try to stop me. His story is an increasingly common one. Unfocused and unambitious as a young man, he drifted into teaching English abroad and never drifted back out of it. After a few years in Thailand, he fetched up in Russia, where the economy was booming and everyone wanted to learn to speak English. The pay and living conditions were abysmal, but the vodka and women flowed freely. For nine years he was content to jog along and pickle his liver, but eventually he came to feel that he should be preparing for his old age. And where better to do that than in Saudi Arabia, where a Westerner can earn lavish sums for doing very little. Of course, there are always worms in apples and here they include bad housing, no community life, incompatible colleagues, and students who are even more apathetic than usual. Then there's his private life. After nine years of playing the field in Russia, he manages to acquire a serious Russian girlfriend on his way out the door. Furthermore, she's a bigger drama queen than Vladimir Putin! And so we follow our hero as he slides (not very gracefully) into middle age and deals with his ageing parents in the U.S. and tries to pound a little conversational English into arrogant Saudi youngsters who know that their family's political connections are all that really count. And there's that ditzy, irritating girl friend. As in all his books, there's WAY more about his sex life than any reader could possibly be interested in. (At this point, even HE has lost interest.) And he should have left out most of the flashbacks about his time in Russia. I understand that nine years was a big chunk of his life, but he's already covered that ground in another book. But, by God, he can tell a story and his observations of the Saudis and the strange assortment of Westerners who have washed up with the tide are as acute and funny as ever. His stories of his Russian friends and their escapades in the U.S. are fascinating in a horrifying way. And he brings an insider/outsider perspective to the problem of ageing in America. I'll skip the porn shorts with which he claims to have had some success on, but I do like his stuff. He's intelligent and screwy and sometimes quite thought-provoking. Can't ask for more than that.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. **ETX Ages Like a (Fine) Wine** By Thomas Burke This is the 3rd memoir I've read by ETX, and after reading through almost 20-years of his life I'm a little sad that I've reached the end of his catalogue. This book ends in 2014, and we may be waiting a while for another new book. ETX's new book moves away from his hedonistic past, and instead follows his teaching experience in the Middle East, where he opted for financial security over chasing cheap booze and cheaper girls. "Requiem" isn't completely limited to just the Middle East however, it follows ETX as he travels around Europe, North America, and Asia during his frequent vacations with his Russian girlfriend. The main focus on this new book is what happens to an aging ESL teacher. Loneliness and borderline poverty are some of the less desirable parts of being a perpetual wanderer, but it was great to get to read about ETX doing his best to overcome them. Overall it was a great read, and I would definitely recommend fellow nomads to check it out.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **Adventurous, Insightful, and Informative** By Elmon Adventure, insightful, and informative... English Teacher X's previous memoirs delivers those three things, and this book is no exception. This time, he journeys to the Middle East where he earns a lot of money and forgoes the licentious pleasures found in Russia, his previous teaching gig. The prose is well written and informative. The narrator seems to tell a truthful story about himself and his journey, sometimes painfully so. We learn a lot about the Middle East from the barbed-wire compounds to the extravagant living of Dubai. English Teacher X has matured since his early days in Thailand and Korea, and so has his outlook on life. He shares with us that chasing money doesn't exactly equate to happiness, even if it's \$8,000 a month. The book is rather on the long side, but it's entertaining and informative. There are many unintended hilarious moments, especially with the students who response best when given nothing to do, and the extra moments with Crazy Bob and his addiction to call girls. The author grows and learns through his experience, however positive or negative they may be. I highly recommend this book and looking forward to the next installment!

"A funny thing happened to me, when I moved to the strictest Islamic country on earth, shortly after my 40th birthday, my life stripped of drugs, alcohol and women: I felt happy."

About the Author English Teacher X has been teaching English for nearly 20 years in some of the worst TEFL schools in the world, in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia.