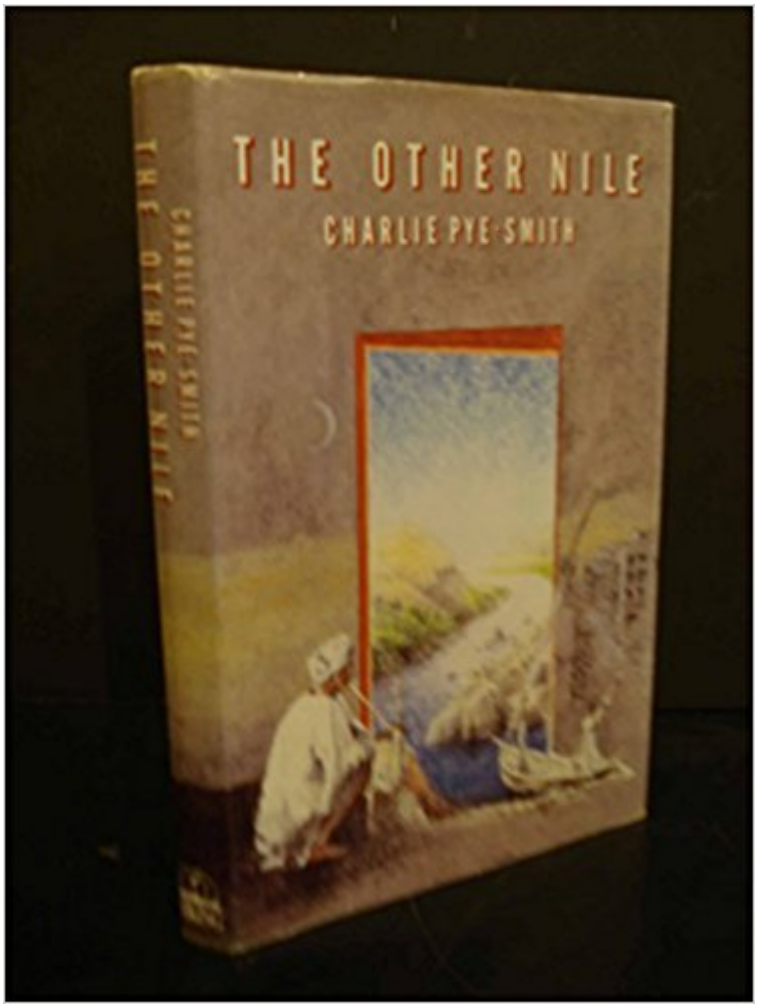
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The Other Nile: Journeys In Egypt, The Sudan, And Ethiopia



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Synopsis

Book by Pye-Smith, Charlie

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Viking Adult (September 12, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670802042

ISBN-13: 978-0670802043

Product Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 20 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #7,536,293 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Sudan #290 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Ethiopia & Djibouti #1052 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > General

Customer Reviews

In 1975 Pye-Smith made a low-budget tour of Egypt, the Sudan, and Ethiopia: he returned in 1984 to write his impressions of this stress-torn region. He gives us a book that is neither political reportage nor the predictable tourist account, but rather one that is highly personal, earthy, sometimes very amusing (e.g., when he writes of bureaucrats and "Lucky Cow" brand corned beef), and sometimes troubling (e.g., as when he writes of the refugees in Khartoum). Above all the book is finely crafted in the best tradition of British travel writing. It belongs in most travel collections. Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., AshlandCopyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Mr Smith is an excellent writer who is able to evoke the sights, sounds and smells of Africa. He takes us deep into Arab culture during his travels into Egypt. Then we follow his journey as he moves farther away from Arab North Africa and gets closer to sub-Saharan Africa. We see Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia often as places very different from the West. He explains enough about the history of these places so that we are well informed about why they are the way they are without being exhaustive or boring. He introduces many interesting and memorable characters and scenes along his travels. Mr Smith enthusiasm for these cultures is obvious and if the reader also enjoys learning about different places, I expect he/she will not lose

interest. It actually seemed to me like Mr Smith was drawn by some kind of insatiable curiosity for these places. There is no concrete explanation for why he is there and why he felt compelled to return. He is not a conventional journalist nor a historian. But he takes note of what the characters around him say and do and has his own questions for them. He is not a snob. He mentions travelling first class, third class, dealing with government officials, average people in shops and markets, boat captains, being chased by lunatics. This is really a treasure and deserves to be considered one of the top travel books.

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