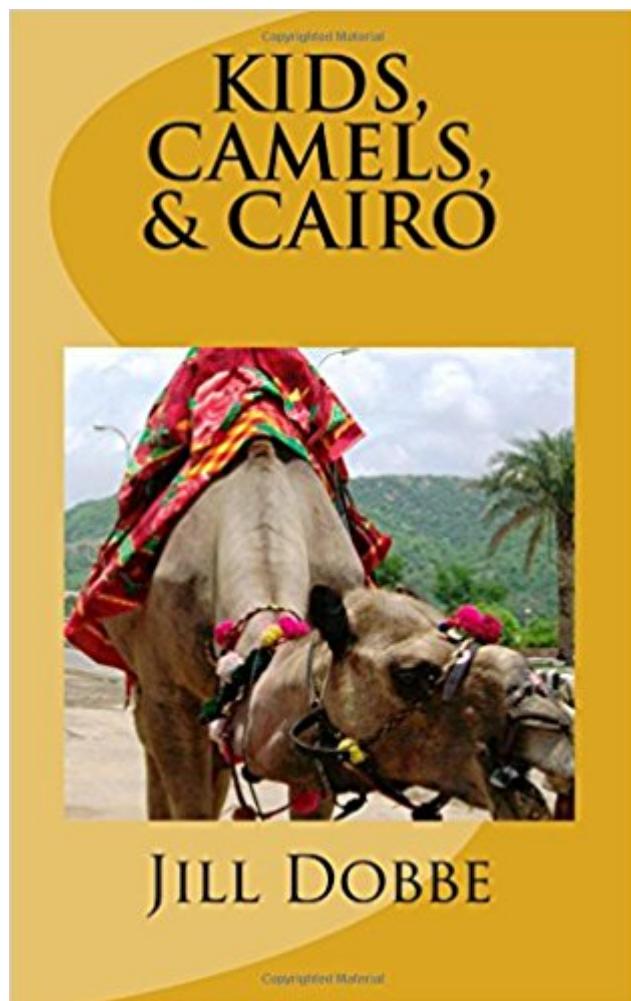


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# Kids, Camels, & Cairo



## Synopsis

At sunup each morning, I peeled my eyes open the second I heard the call to prayer resound through the air. At 7:00 A.M., I walked out to a rare quiet Cairo street and waited for the van to pick me up. Climbing onto the van, I found a seat alongside other Muslim and foreign teachers, where I was one of only a few not wearing hijab. It was Sunday morning and another Islamic week of disciplining rich, apathetic students, was about to begin. Traveling across the globe to work in an international school in Cairo, Egypt, was not exactly the glamorous lifestyle I thought it would be. I cherished my travels to the Red Sea, delighted in visiting the Pyramids, and appreciated the natural wonders of the Nile River. However, I also spent days without electricity or internet, was leered at by rude Egyptian men, breathed in Cairo's cancerous black smog, and coaxed school work from students. *KIDS, CAMELS, & CAIRO* is a lighthearted read about Jill Dobbe's personal experiences as an educator abroad. Whether you're an educator, a traveler, or just a curious reader, you will be astounded at this honest and riveting account of learning to live in an Islamic society, while confronting the frustrating challenges of being an educator in a Muslim school. (less)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jill is an international educator and published author who writes about her experiences living and working in schools and countries around the world. She currently lives in her seventh country, Honduras, with her husband, Dan, and her Yorkie-Poo, Mickey. While working as an elementary principal, Jill also travels, does scrapbooking, reads obsessively, photographs the beautiful countries and people of Latin America, and muddles her way through the Spanish language. Jill

loves her life as an international educator, and most days, feels like she is living her dream.

The author takes the reader on an exciting journey in a Muslim country. For readers who know very little about Islam and its dress code, how males and females should conduct themselves and what is expected from foreigners, this memoir is very informative. The climb up Mt. Sinai, even though very difficult for Jill Dobbe, was fascinating. Ali, the daughter had a lot to tend with having to spend her final year of high school in a foreign country, a very courageous, young lady. Jill compliments her husband on giving her support. I believe that this kind of lifestyle can only be done if all members of the family are both helpful and positive. I recommend for anyone interested in learning about life in Cairo, teaching in a foreign country and making sacrifices in order to coincide with the Muslims' way of living.

I really enjoyed this book as I spent a month in Cairo working for the US Air Force. The story really starts as their son heads to college and their daughter agrees to spend her senior year in Cairo. I really would have liked a little more about how the daughter handled that year. Anyone thinking about going to work in Cairo or for a visit to Egypt should read this book. I experienced many of the same things just on my month there. I highly recommend this book

Kids, Camels, & Cairo provides a look at life for "everyday Americans" living in Egypt. Jill and her husband take jobs as teachers/administrators at schools in Cairo without really being prepared for the lifestyle; they simply pack up their house and younger child, leaving the older son in the States at college, and find themselves entrenched in an Islamic society. This book can almost be used as a guide for expats moving to Egypt. Jill gives good details of the various places she and her family visit, and a realistic look at life in those places for women, minorities, and the poor. I felt like I could follow a list of the sights described on her many side excursions during school breaks and my visit to Egypt would be pretty complete. At times I wished the book had been a little less descriptive of regular, less exciting events, but really, living overseas has to have some down time, too. This was the first book I've read from a white American woman living in Egypt, and I felt like I learned a lot.

Since I love to travel, Kids, Camels, & Cairo sounded like it would be an interesting read for me and it was. Jill Dobbe, a school administrator and educator, has lived and worked in several countries. In 2008, she and her husband Dan accepted positions at a private school in Cairo. Although the school was called international, the vast majority of students were Egyptians from ultra-wealthy

families. Learning about the culture in this Muslim country as she fulfilled her contract, Ms. Dobbe was able to experience Egyptian life. Told in an accessible manner that is easy for most people to read, this book should be of interest to many. I look forward to reading about Jill Dobbe's next adventure.

Didn't this woman see anything positive about Egypt? I've lived there as an expat teacher and experienced a different Cairo completely. Fact checking needed desperately, many errors in your discourses on Islam and burkas aren't worn in Egypt.

I never want to go to Cairo. But the Pyramids, Mount Sinai, the Red Sea. No thank you, no thank you, no thank you. Although author Jill Dobbe makes a compelling case for its beauty and its people in her novel *Kids, Camels & Cairo*, I will pass. thank you very much. Aww come on, how bad can it be. There are dead animals and dead people on the side of the road! Dead, as in no longer living. That kind of bad and that kind of bad is something I would have nightmares about for the remainder of my life. In all honesty, I could probably get passed the dead people. There is a slight possibility that I could be witness to that, dream about it for 4-5 years and eventually go back to a somewhat normal existence, but the animals. I never get over animal abuse. I can't even watch a dog shelter commercial. But seriously I'm over exaggerating, there is like one chapter about an abused donkey and I'm all screw Cairo. Following the author and her family from the safety and security of small town Wisconsin through their Egyptian adventures is thoroughly entertaining. The day to day trials and tribulations range from humorous to hideous. It's chronicled chaos written with heart, humility and humanity. Huge shout out to Ali, the author's daughter who finished her last year of high school in Cairo. Damn girl, you're a saint. I admired the author's sense of humor throughout the story, adding a comedic aspect to every mishap as noted in the hike that nearly ended in divorce on Mount Sinai and her hunt for a haircut that ended with a mullet. She's a good sport through it all, riding in death cabs, nasty school children, dank apartments and unidentifiable food. Hell, she even hires some chick to tattoo her lips. *Kids, Camels & Cairo* is an easy read about rolling with the punches and taking chances. The story moves at a comfortable pace with the author's satire and uncertainties taking center stage. Take a bow, Jill Dobbe. You've got balls but I bet you're glad to rejoin the Cheeseheads of Wisconsin.

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