



Paramedic to the Prince

Patrick (Tom) Notestine

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Paramedic to the Prince

Patrick (Tom) Notestine

Paramedic to the Prince Patrick (Tom) Notestine

Drive-by shootings, drug overdoses, and multi-car accidents as a paramedic, he thought he had seen it all, until he answered a small job advertisement that changed his life forever. Welcome to the mysterious world of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one of the most fundamentalist Islamic countries on the globe. Working as a paramedic at the only Level One trauma center in the Middle East, he found his skills and knowledge tested to the limit on a daily basis. Later recruited to the medical team of Crown Prince Abdullah Ibin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the now reigning King of Saudi Arabia, he was drawn into a world of palaces and princes, limousines and Learjets. His adventure had only begun. This is a riveting, factual account of an American paramedic's extraordinary experience inside a country seldom seen by the outside world. This book is a must read.

Paramedic to the Prince Details

Date : Published March 19th 2007 by Publish America

ISBN : 9781424158966

Author : Patrick (Tom) Notestine

Format : Paperback 244 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Medical, Biography, Travel, Autobiography, Memoir, Health, Medicine

 [Download Paramedic to the Prince ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Paramedic to the Prince ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Paramedic to the Prince Patrick (Tom) Notestine

From Reader Review Paramedic to the Prince for online ebook

Liralen says

Sometimes you come across a book online (in this case while looking up books similar to *In the Land of Invisible Women*, although I was hoping for better writing) and it looks really interesting. A great cover -- in this case the blue one -- and a story about a culture you're curious about.

Sometimes it is easy to find a copy of that book, so your curiosity is quickly sated. Sometimes you can't find a copy anywhere -- neither of the library systems in your town have it; it's not available on the bookswap site you use; the bookstore doesn't have it (and you view Amazon as cheating). So you put it on your "to-read" list anyway and hope that sooner or later it'll become available on the bookswap site.

And then -- and then. You're going through your to-read list in preparation for a library run, checking to see which books both appeal at the moment and are available at the library, and *this book is one of them*. Shock. Happiness. It has such a great cover, after all, and even though you know better than to judge a book by its cover, you are lulled into a false sense of security because you're happy that you'll actually be able to move this one from the "to-read" list to the "read" list. So you check the book out.

And then you start reading it. Oh dear. This is not what you expected. This is, first of all, very clearly self-published. (You could have figured this out before you got it from the library, of course, but shhhhh, you haven't learned this lesson yet and probably won't anytime soon.) It is immediately clear that the author desperately needed an editor, and a proofreader, and somebody who could remind him to stop switching tenses mid-paragraph, dammit, you're going to break some poor reader's brain.

The book is written in a chatty, conversational style, which sometimes is fine and sometimes makes you want to bash your head against the wall, because in addition to needing an editor and a proofreader and so on, the author would have benefited from a fact checker. There is no continuity to the stories, no recurring characters, and numerous threads left hanging. Every other statement is presented as a truth universal to Saudi Arabia, with little or no nuance.

On the more minor end of things, the author talks about earning and saving a ton of money in Saudi Arabia, then going back to the States, getting accepted into a low-tier law school (he doesn't say "low-tier", of course, but you have Google on your side), and then not having the \$11,000 to pay for a year of schooling (which confuses you on two levels -- first because one would think that if he'd saved up a ton of money he could at least make it through a year of school on his savings, second because the school's website and Wikipedia put annual tuition at \$9,000 and \$7,500, respectively, and you wouldn't expect it to have *decreased* since the author's admission). It doesn't matter, anyway; he goes back to Saudi Arabia to save up the money for law school and then never mentions law school again.

When the author is not talking about how much money he's saving, his stories can be divided into two categories: crazy shit that Saudis do because they are so unqualified for any job ever, and crazy shit that Saudis have because they spend money like it is going out of style. It is memoir, of course, so you expected some degree of bias, but you had naively assumed that the author would at least try to be evenhanded rather than throwing out every shocking or funny story he can think of (except for those times when he tells half a story, says that he'll tell the rest later, and then never gets around to it).

He's not stupid. He recognises inequalities and inconsistencies in Saudi Arabia, but also in other countries. He's just not interested in exploring them in any depth beyond shock value, nor in covering any part of the culture. As an American, he has certain advantages not available to many other foreign workers or many

classes in Saudi Arabia -- he recognises this, but doesn't question it -- just uses those advantages to the best of his ability. The role of women is noted, but again, only as shock value -- you don't actually count, but if you did you'd probably find that he spends more time talking about cars (ones he's had, ones the Saudis gave away because they weren't modern enough, ones that got scraped) than about women. There's little insight, just extremes. The book definitely does not pass the Bechdel test.

But you finish the book. Not that you expect it to get better. Possibly you are a masochist, or possibly you just still have an irrational hope that somewhere in here there is one gem -- just one -- that would make the book worth it.

At least now the book can come off your "to-read" list.

Julie Laporte says

I loved this and hated this all at the same time. I read it on the Kindle, and the editing was absolutely horrible. Not just your usual error, either--whole syntax errors. That's enough to drive me nuts...yet I know so very little about this subject, and the author's experience is so unique--privy to the life of a prince in Saudi Arabia--even getting to see Mecca and the Kabala as a non-Muslim.

Yet I couldn't help but get hung up on the author's voice, which really came through loud and clear--I think, and no offense intended, it just isn't somebody I would personally be friends with, and with such a strong voice these stories are told in, it was hard to get away from that feeling that I wanted to walk away. I also wondered how much I could trust the story--who's there to say that's not what happened? Truly, I have no reason not to trust this author, but in this world of self-publishing, anyone could abuse the trust we're so used to in reading books that previously were screened and verified to some degree by publishing houses.

Quite interesting.

Brooke Hailey says

I'm not quite halfway through and it's starting to get boring. It was intriguing at first, but now it's getting pretty slow. And the grammatical errors are rampant! I think Notestine has an interesting story to tell, but he needs a better editor!

Megan Moody says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's obvious from the writing style that it's actually written by the paramedic, versus a ghost writer, and I liked that about it. The writing style is that of a guy sitting around telling stories. It hops all over the place in no particular order and uses phrases like "it was a zillion degrees," but I think that made me like the book that much more. It's an easy and light read, with only a few sentences here and there about horrible things (the way women and animals are treated and things like that). I also liked that it's written without judgement of the culture while still showing the author's Western view on things. His love-hate relationship with Saudia Arabia is clearly evident.

Ann says

I don't even know how rate this book. If I were to rate it on writing style, spelling, editing, and typos, it would get one star, if that. If I were to rate it on interesting stories and learning more about Saudi Arabia, it would get a 4. The first part of the book about his life as a paramedic in a hospital in Saudi and later to the prince is fascinating. The latter half of the book where he just rambles his opinions about Saudi life in general is less so. I think a good editor good have taken the first half of this book and made it into a great book. Overall though, it was an interesting read. You have to look past things like the spelling of "Shreiveport, LA" or the use of "4-bed roomed house." His stories have the potential to make a good book, but sadly this one isn't it. I honestly did enjoy it though, so it got a three on that account.

Beverly says

Fascinating look into paramedic practices in Saudi Arabia and frustrations it brought to an American trained paramedic. Interesting look into the life of the Saudi royal family.

The book suffered from poor grammar here and there; the kindle edition desperately needs a good editor.

Laura says

I had a hard time putting this one down. The Saudi culture is...*very* different from ours. Reading this book was like coming upon a bad car accident - you know you should look away but just can't.

The author tells many fascinating anecdotes but I was wishing his editor had tightened up the writing. The stories jumped around a bit and at times it wasn't clear which person he was speaking of.

I'm hoping to find out what Mr. Notestine has done since leaving Saudi - did he become a lawyer? How does he feel about Saudi Arabia now and would he go back again?

Good read - I recommend it. Some graphic content (it IS about a being a medical worker) and a few swear words.

Kelly says

Really nice to have a book that doesn't pontificate or dispense viewpoints and simply lets us judge for ourselves. A fascinating (and somewhat disturbing) POV of Saudi Arabia.

Petra CigareX says

Firstly the Saudi Royals aren't like other Royal Families. Given that Ibn Saud, the founder of the modern

house of Saud, had 45 sons (no one knows how many daughters as females are irrelevant) that would make the Royals a huge clan to start with. Since the men can have four wives each (at a time, divorcing them as and when someone more appealing comes along) the breeding capacity is vast. The latest figure I read was that there are around 15,000 royals of which 2,000 are multi-millionaires and hold all the positions of power and 'government' that they want.

So entitling the book Paramedic to the Prince means that the position was by no means unique and there were probably an awful lot of special one-to-one paramedics to the endless procession of princes. But only one wrote a book! And Notestine can tell a story well.

What I mostly took away from the book is that the royals are despotic sybarites. They are peaceful, generous and friendly* and even obliging if you are doing something they want and are happy to be on call 24/7 and are suitably cringingly respectful back. Nothing else is acceptable, not even the slightest deviation from that.

If they are nice to you, if they allow you money and freedom it means you are male, probably European or American and useful to them. If you are Indian, Filipino or from those other third world nations that go there to work to send money home, you have very few rights. Women, of course, even less. And no Jews, no matter their nationality are allowed in. I believe it is the only country in the world that bans visitors based on their religion, I might be wrong though.

There was one Jew allowed in though. That was my late uncle. He was a world-famous (in his sphere) anaesthetist specialising in heart operations, and was one of the people who developed heart transplants. When the King was too ill to travel, the Saudis assembled the best medical team in the world and a jet was sent to London for my uncle, an observant Orthodox Jew. There is a Jewish saying, if you save one life, it's as if you had saved the world. So of course he went.

Something the author does not go into is the present-day slave trade in Saudi Arabia. Slavery was officially ended in 1962 although the chief of the Ulema of Mecca (some time before) issued a fatwa declaring "the ban on slaves is contrary to Sharia (Islamic Law)". If you are interested in human rights for minorities, including Blacks, this is a good article.

Paramedic to the Prince is quite well written, Notestine is quite a story teller, and he loved his job, got promotions, mixed with the royals and had extended holidays back in the US. But eventually he sickened of the place, the extreme corruption, the lack of respect for anyone or anything that gets in the way of the Saudi Royals. And left to return to the normality of America! I wish him well and I hope he continues writing.

Ms. Kat says

Readers wanting a crash course in expat life in Saudi Arabia will find this book helpful. Though lacking in structure, the book's humorous anecdotes kept me interested, especially the author's accidental visit to Mecca and his stories of working in various Saudi Arabian hospitals. His personal experiences during the time he served as medic to the Crown Prince are intriguing. Not many people can say they've joined world leaders as they convened on yachts and stayed at various palatial estates. The ambivalence the author feels towards the culture is clear: on one hand, he's fascinated by the beauty of the landscape that is Saudi Arabia --the caves & the wide-open spaces-- and his connections with friendly Saudis. On the other hand, he's troubled by the treatment of women and minorities and the inconsistencies he sees at work and in society at large.

The book is worth reading, especially for the inside scoop on the inner workings of the Saudi royal family. Readers looking for a balanced, scholarly overview of Saudi Arabian culture, however, should look elsewhere. Those looking for an entertaining, easy read won't be disappointed.

Seth says

This was a fascinating perspective on daily life in Saudi Arabia for a paramedic who worked there for nearly a decade, both in a hospital and on the staff of Crown Prince Abdullah, both before and after September 11. the author notes that he has a love-hate relationship with the country and spent most of his time in an emergency room, but it was still a fascinating perspective and an engaging, quick read.

Golem says

The ability to self-publish books has certainly increased reader's exposure to previously undiscovered fields of work and play, but without the critical eye of a well-meaning editor some texts become painful, and *Paramedic To The Prince* is one such book. It is an unstructured, one-dimensional, chronologically challenged account of an American paramedic's decade long life in Saudi Arabia. I really wanted to like this book but was defeated by tortuous syntax, grammar and the random paragraphs. The author fits neatly into the category of 'unreliable narrator', always presenting himself in the best light and almost everyone else as the baddie. I lost count of how many times he referred to those who work in the service industries as 'little', e.g. "the little Bangladeshi", "the little Philipino", with overtones of arrogance. Saudi is clearly a very rich country for some people and I shared his awe at the lavishness of it all, but he remains fixated by money and it is a recurring theme that never gets beyond a 'water-cooler conversation' in exploring in more depth. He certainly has no aversion to name-dropping, on one occasion even stepping up to Gadaffi during an Arab nation conference and shaking his hand, "I'm still proud that I've stood toe to toe with Muammar Gaddafi." On another occasion he describes a visit to the hospital by Adnan Khoshoggi, the self-proclaimed international arms dealer, and manages to misspell his name twice in the space of half a page. Both we and the author might have benefited had he paid more attention to politics and editing. Perhaps we shouldn't be completely surprised by the almost complete absence of Muslim women in the narrative. Although this might be a clever narrative technique for portraying their role in Saudi society I was hoping that during some point in ten years Notestine would have reflected on his relationship to and with Muslim women, but sadly we read none of it. The penultimate chapter has the supreme irony of describing the Saudi man's attitude to Western women as "sluts" in a condemnatory way but then spends four pages of gossip about British paramedic Jim who strings along girlfriends while his naive wife looks after their child. The behaviour the author details of the 'infidels' really doesn't show them in any more of a favourable light than the religious society he implicitly condemns. As he leaves the country for the last time he writes, "Saudi is a fascinating place." Indeed it might be, but this is not the book that shares or conveys that fascination.

Sophie says

Very interesting, full of fascinating tid-bits about life in Saudi.

Petra says

An interesting story of a fascinating country, its people and customs. Unevenly told and with a touch of arrogant superiority at times. There's a lot of talk of the riches one can amass as an expat (tax free income, many gratuities, free lodging, etc). As a reader, I got the impression that as time went on, the author himself became a bit spoiled and entitled but throughout his experience he's a man of integrity and hard work who respects the people and their customs, while loving their country and its beauty.

All in all, a very interesting look at the culture of the Kingdom and what it's like to live there as a non-resident, a non-muslim and someone curious about the customs around him.

I enjoyed this book. It's not perfect and it's a bit scattered in how it's laid out but it's a story told by a man who lived there. These are his stories and he's casually relating them. Very interesting.

Jill Robbertze says

This was a most interesting insider view of what it is like to live and work in Saudi Arabia. Notestine covers many aspects from inside the Royal Palaces, Saudi culture, a bit of history, their medical and hospital systems, to stories from within the expat compound. I was totally entrigued by some of the things that seem really shocking from a Westerner's point of view while some of his stories were even amusing. I have read other books about Muslim life in the Middle East but this one struck me as being really candid and even somewhat outspoken.
