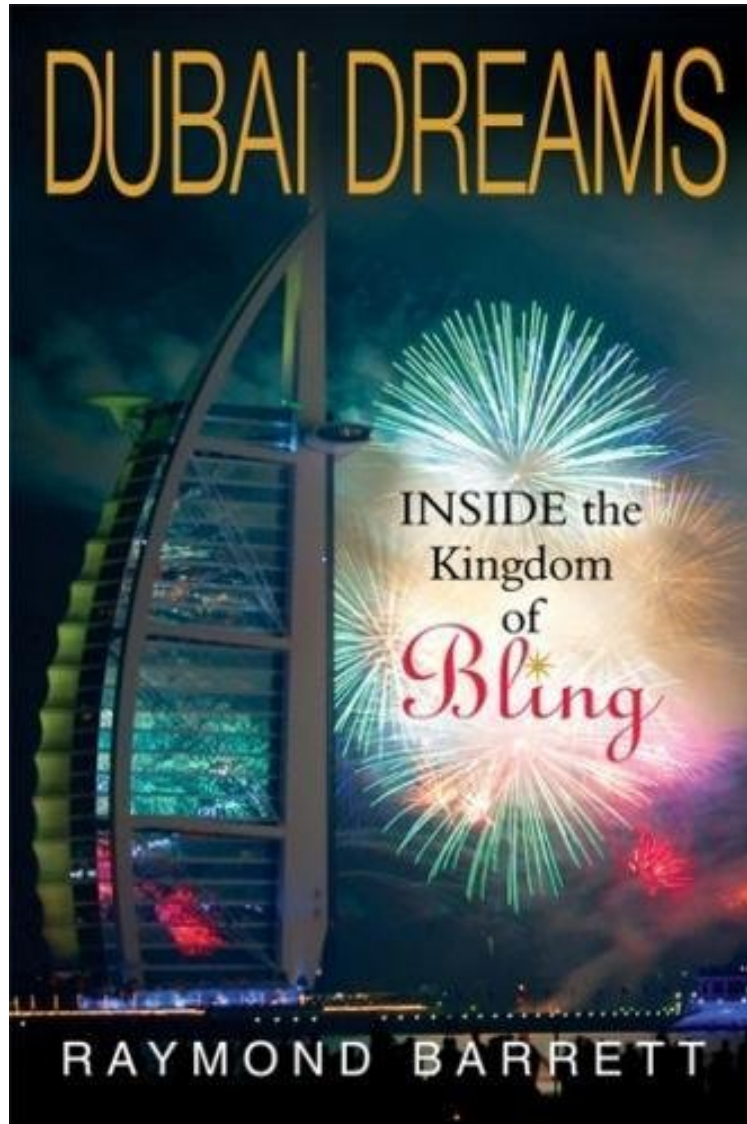


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Dubai Dreams: Inside the Kingdom of Bling

Raymond Barrett

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Raymond Barrett : Dubai Dreams: Inside the Kingdom of Bling before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dubai Dreams: Inside the Kingdom of Bling:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read Book By Manush A. Hristov I absolutely loved "Dubai Dreams"! The book gives fascinating insights into the unique intersection of politics, business, religion and culture in the region, all told in a creative nonfiction style through the personal experiences of the author and his intriguing encounters with a motley cast of locals and ex-pats. What I liked the most is the author's eloquence and gift for gripping story-telling, which made the book an instant page-turner for me. By the end of it, not only did I feel like I

had learned a lot about Dubai and the Middle East, but also that I had been thoroughly entertained. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good insight, well written
By Tommy
Thoroughly enjoyed reading this prior to a brief trip to Dubai. It gives you an insight into to more than you could possibly see yourself in a short visit, but ultimately, as with any book, can only scratch the surface. I now want to know more. I particularly enjoyed the Irish tone of voice which comes across at various points throughout the book.
2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. well written but a bit biased
By Lilian W. Waheire
The Story is well writtten, however i would like to have seen the author acknowledge more what a working Government can achieve considering the low level of illiteracy in Dubai locals. Also How Dubai great mistake other than the real estate misadventure was trying to be more London than London. Dubai instead should have a played a better role as the engines of growth for Africa the Sub-continent two places that are vital to Dubai but for some reason are never acknowledged maybe now with the hangover Dubai can retrace itself. It is not a doomed case as the author suggests

Dubai has become the watchword for all things new, glittering and very bling - a billionaire's dream world and a haven for international expatriates promising a fantasy land of tax-free fun, sun and sin. In less than a generation, this small city-state on the Arabian Gulf has been transformed from a sleepy smuggler's cove to a global financial and entertainment hub home to a number of world records, including the world's tallest building, the largest man-made island and the biggest shopping mall. But what is life really like for the people who live and work in the city of Dubai, beyond the towering skyscrapers, luxury resorts and opulent mansions? Rather than just desert Sheikhs and designer-clad Emiratis, Raymond Barrett also encounters a dizzy melange of expatriates - Iranians, Ethiopians, Indians, Afghans, British and Chinese - all living their own version of The Dubai Dream. Behind the hyperbole and marketing spin, what are the real stories the city has to tell? From seven-star hotels to immigrant labour camps, from Sunni mosques to Hindu temples and from the courthouse to a back-alley speakeasy, Barrett draws a fascinating picture of the brave new world emerging from these desert sands. He reveals the hidden side of this playboy paradise and considers whether Dubai is a doomed Plastic Arabia or an authentic 21st century success story.

Raymond Barrett's book delivers in an entertaining and personal way. Having lived in the Middle East for nearly a decade, he is well placed to give an overview of how the tiny emirate grew from a desert trading post into a boom town. Dubai Dreams explains the cultural and historical background to this extraordinary place. This book is a good, accessible primer.
The Irish Times
Raymond Barrett's portrait of the rhinestone emirate is beautifully observed, packed with surprises, epigrams and sage analysis. Dubai, as much state of mind as city-state, has long been crying out for such a psychogeography as this.
Tim Mackintosh-Smith, author of Yemen: Travels in a Dictionary Land and visiting lecturer at the Royal Geographical Society and Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies
The revelry may be over for some of Dubai's fast-buck artists but, as Barrett reveals in this intimate portrait, the glitter Kingdom continues to be a magnet for Iraqis fleeing carnage in their homeland and others in the region with the age-old dream of re-inventing themselves.
Kevin McKiernan, journalist and filmmaker, covered the Iraq war for ABC News
A no-holds-barred, blow-by-blow account of the majesty and depravity of boom town Dubai. The best narrative so far of the tiny emirate's explosion onto the global scene.
Dr. Christopher M. Davidson, author of the bestselling Dubai: The Vulnerability of Success
About the Author
Raymond Barrett has lived in the Middle East for nearly a decade and writes regularly on the region for Ireland's Sunday Business Post. He has also written for newspapers across the Middle East and in the United States.