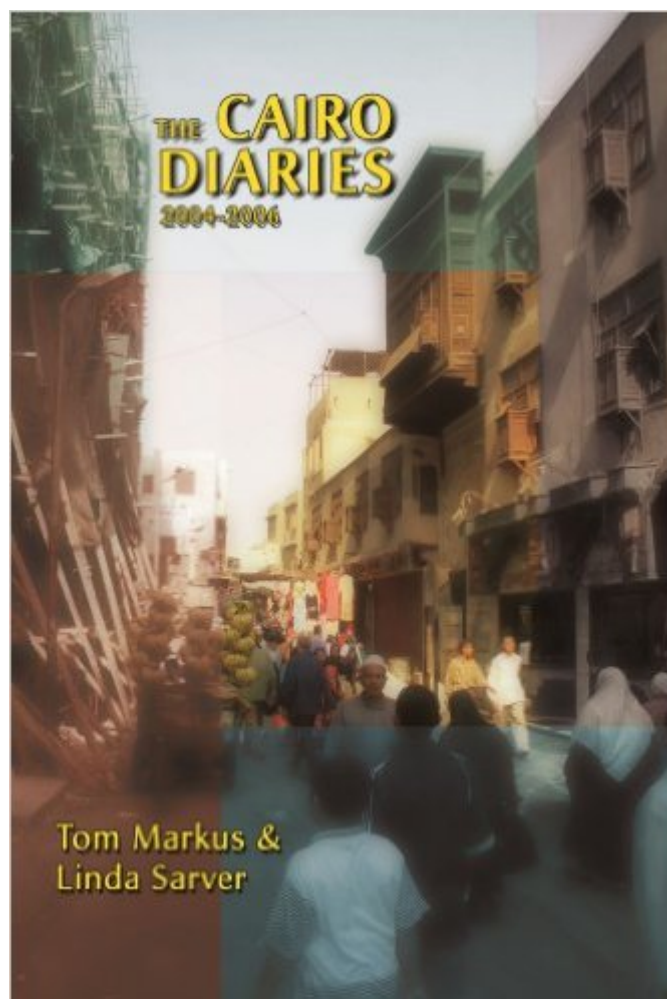


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# The Cairo Diaries: 2004-2006



## Synopsis

Have you wanted to float down the Nile in a felucca or shop till you drop in a souk? Whether you're a seasoned traveler who always goes first class and loves the view from the roof of the Nile Hilton, a backpacker who wonders what it's like to wear a galabeya, or a travel reader who dreams of the dark inside a pyramid from the comfort of an armchair, we invite you to share the fascinating experiences we had living in Cairo. These diaries began as e-mail messages to friends who encouraged us to expand them into the book you're holding. We describe the wonderful people we met (an art gallery owner with jokes about Bush), the funny experiences we had (falling off a donkey in the desert), and the insights about Egyptian politics and culture that we gained in our wanderings and in our ex-pat life. "Are you safe?" we were asked by friends in the States, and we answered, "Cairo is the safest city we have ever lived in." The friendly, honest, and generous Egyptians were only one of our amazing discoveries. What we learned about America was another.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This American couple lived in Cairo from 2004-2006 and kept a journal that they emailed to friends and family. It should have remained emails only. It's boring, President Bush-bashing, religion-bashing and comments about Mohammed are fatwa worthy. page 48--"The wily old seventh century goat was probably protecting his sexual turf...." page 27--"Another legacy of that 7th century guy who, in addition to disdaining lunch, didn't understand his calendar very well." page 25--"All this because a self-important guy in the 7th century didn't like lunch." It's mostly written by Tom who claims to be culturally sensitive but he doesn't come across that way in writing. I call this book "How

not to write a book about Egypt".

At a time when most reports from the Middle East are gloomy at best, it is refreshing to read *The Cairo Diaries, 2004-2006*, by Tom Marcus and Linda Sarver. This is a delightful account of their days in Egypt, Tom as a member of the theater arts faculty at the American University in Cairo, and Linda as a student of art and architecture. Entertaining and witty, it reflects brilliancy of mind and a splendid sense of humor. Most enriching are reports of the generosity of the Egyptian people, descriptions of weekend travels to areas rich in antiquities, and insights into the minds of the citizens of Cairo and the students at the university. This book makes one want to charter a passage to Egypt. I would recommend taking along a copy of *Cairo Diaries* to supplement the standard guides.

Although the official "Thumping Good Read" is no longer being given, this book would certainly be an excellent candidate for it. Written by two erudite writers, it is entertaining and informative on many levels. For those who have lived abroad, and experienced the petit miseries that arise, for those who have ever taught, for those who are culturally curious, for those who have been involved with theater, for those who love a good laugh, this book is for you! Enjoy

I'm not a reader of travel books, but on recommendation I dipped into this delightful book and found it wonderful. It's much more than a look at Cairo but offers insights into the Egyptian culture and American expectations. Lots of the books is funny. The narrator is funny, incidents are funny. It's a great read! It's also very current, letting us know what is going on NOW and what the American University is like NOW. Not a bit pedantic, the book is accessible, enjoyable, and informative.

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