



Cairo: A Cultural History

By Andrew Beattie

Oxford University Press, USA. Paperback. Condition: New. 248 pages. Dimensions: 8.1in. x 5.3in. x 0.6in. Foreword by Penelope Lively Cairo is a city of extremes. On its chaotic streets B. M. Ws driven by sharp-suited businessmen compete for space with donkey carts laden with farm produce. In its mosques the wealthy and the destitute pray side by side. The largest metropolis in Africa since the Middle Ages, it was in Ibn Battutah's words the mother of cities. With a present-day population of around eighteen million, this sprawling metropolis is home to one thousand new migrants every day, drawn to the seething intensity of a modern, cosmopolitan capital that blends together the cultures of the Middle East and Europe. The fabled city on the banks of the River Nile, once home to pharaohs and emperors, now forms a focal point of the Islamic faith and of the Arab world. Andrew Beattie explores the turbulent past and vibrant present of this city where the enduring legacies of the ancient Egyptians, the early Coptic Church, British colonial rule and the modernist zeal of the post-independence era have all left their mark. - City of Writers, Conquerors and Revolutionaries: From Mark Twain and William Thackeray...

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