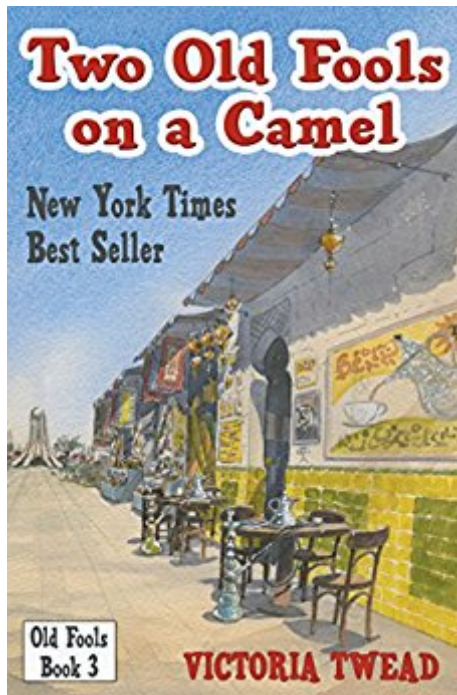




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Two Old Fools On A Camel: From Spain To Bahrain And Back Again



Synopsis

Reluctantly, Vicky and Joe leave their Spanish mountain village to work for a year in the Middle East. How could they know that the Arab revolution was poised to erupt, throwing them into violent events that would make world headlines? Teaching Arab kids, working with crazy teachers, forming life-long friendships and being placed under house arrest, Vicky and Joe laugh and lurch through their year in Bahrain. With grateful thanks to Nadia Sawalha for the wonderful Arabic recipes.

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Customer Reviews

Vicky and her husband Joe retired to live in a small village in Spain and she wrote two funny memoirs about that, the first one titled "Chickens, Mules and Two Old Fools." This book is a big change of scene because to replenish their bank account they took jobs in Bahrain teaching for a year. Bahrain is a very strict Muslim island nation off the coast of Saudi Arabia. It was a rough start for them with intense heat and Ramadan demanding they did not eat or even drink water from sun rise to sun set. Add in the violent Arab Spring protests and government actions, a quirky team of teachers, spoiled students, the King's camels, and letting off steam sessions in an Irish bar, plus some warm friendships formed, and you have the basis of this book. I hope Tweed disguised some

of the teachers she writes about (the very odd ones) so their feelings aren't hurt if they read this. I enjoyed this book and recommend reading the first book first.

I don't ever write reviews but... Victoria Tweed's Trilogies of Two Old Fools are too wonderful and funny not to let everyone in on! I prefer biographies so when I was searching the Kindle store I found the first in the series. Chickens, Mules and Two Old Fools. I could not put it down. Chickens is about Victoria and her Husband Joe and their very daring move from England to a tiny village in the mountains of Spain. You will find yourself laughing out loud and yearning to be right there with them! If you want hours of enjoyable reading buy this books. You will not be disappointed.

I love Victoria Twead! I have read most, if not all, of her "Two Old Fools" books. I found this book both entertaining and informative in that she educated me in life in the Middle East. I know that Twead only spoke of her experiences but they were insightful and engaging. She and Joe certainly were out of their comfort zone. This book was not as lighthearted as her other books but I enjoyed every word of it.

I couldn't put the book down, possibly because I'm Bahraini and I'm always interested in seeing Bahrain from other people's perspective. I was also fascinated by this book because of the time during which the author was staying in Bahrain, the year that would have an impact on Bahrain for generations to come; the Arab Spring. I was an ESL teacher at the time in a public school, and things were worse than Mrs. Twead's experience. I hope one day things would become better, and Bahrainis would have more rights and opportunities in the kingdom. Many Bahrainis live under the poverty line, with no hope in sight, while the minority bathes in dianr notes from oil revenue. The balance should be restored in order to have a productive and stable society. Thank you Victoria for your honest and critical review of Bahrain. Best wishes, Eman Davis.

I just got through reading this 3rd story in this series. Victoria Twead, the author, and her husband Joe go from living in a small remote Spanish village, to spending a year in Bahrain to be teachers. This book has a totally different feel about it and is more on the serious side due to the fact of taking place in the middle east, and the tense situation that actually took place while they were there. However, with that being said, it is no less enjoyable to read. You are taken on an adventure of culture, language, expectations, friendships and education. Victoria has the gift to write on a truly human level that gets you to really 'know' each character and their individual foibles. You get to

really feel like you are right there! By the end of the book, it really made me a bit sad when they had to say their goodbyes to such special friends they whom they had shared a year with in such a foreign and exotic place. The friendships there were very strong because of what they'd all gone through together. It made me think more of on the level of individuals as opposed to generalizing a certain group of people. I have really enjoyed reading her series so far and am now looking forward to her next book in this series. Keep writing Victoria! I absolutely lose myself in your books!

Victoria Tweed has a way of writing that makes you feel like you're on the phone with an old friend telling you of her latest escapades. When Vicky and Joe leave Spain to move to Bahrain to teach for a year and help improve their retirement funds, the fun (and tension due to political upheaval) begins. Hard to imagine teaching a classroom of such unruly, spoiled children, but if anyone was up to the task, it is Vicky and Joe. I so admire their spirit of adventure and willingness to put aside all that is familiar and move to the unknown. You both are my new heroes. For anyone nearing retirement, the "Old Fools" trilogy is a must read. Gives you something to think about and mull over.

This was my first time as a reader of Victoria Tweed's work. This edition was a fun read of her year teaching in Bahrain. The colorful portraits of her students and coworkers paint a picture of her teaching year in a private school. Her students were a select bunch taken from parents who could afford private school tuition. Due to this select population it was very hard for me to draw conclusions from her narrative that bear on the people of Bahrain in particular. Overall, I enjoyed her story, but, what can we conclude from her story about Bahrain? An educated population will help Bahrain grow in the future, master the wealth of the oil economy and raise living standards for the people. Only enlightened leadership on the part of the monarchy will accomplish the goals of economic growth, a mastery of the oil wealth riches and the future development of an educated people will accomplish these goals. But, will this development occur? With the boiling over of unrest in the Middle East, only time will give us the answer to these questions. Has time run out for the monarchies in the Middle East, or, will the monarchies play it safe, or, will they work on a new political path forward for their people. The clock is ticking and the western powers have more than a casual interest in the outcome.

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