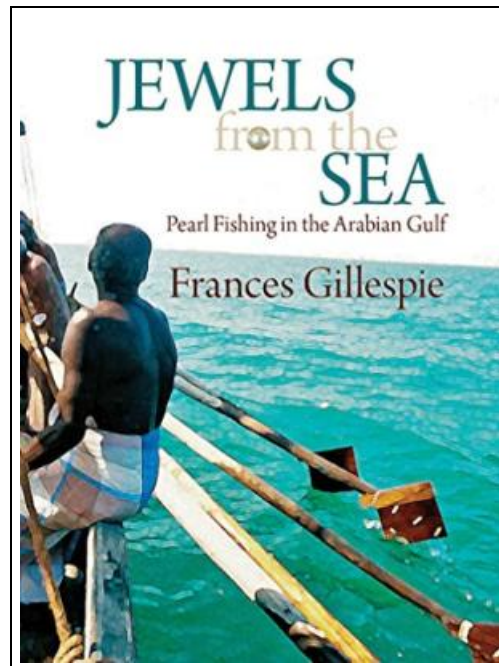


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JEWELS FROM THE SEA: PEARL FISHING IN THE ARABIAN GULF (PAPERBACK)



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Medina Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Today, the citizens of the Arabian Gulf states enjoy an affluent and sophisticated lifestyle and the term oil state conjures up images of vast, air-conditioned shopping malls, gleaming high-rise towers, green parks and sparkling fountains, fast new highways and the latest automobiles - all the trappings of luxury that man can devise. But it was not always so. Once, the people of the Gulf looked to another natural substance as a source of income: not oil, but pearls. Frances Gillespie is well known for her best-selling books on the region for children and adults. In this, her latest work, she tells the fascinating story of pearl fishing in the Gulf. It was a harsh and dangerous way of life for the men at sea, and a hard and lonely life for the women they left behind. But although the life of the divers and their womenfolk was hard, it was also time of togetherness and friendship, shared triumphs and disasters, of joy in finding a perfect pearl, of songs and laughter - each man daily placing his trust in Allah and in the help of his companions. At the beginning of the 20th century the economy of every Gulf state on the Arabian coast depended on pearling. When an enterprising Japanese man perfected the method of cultivating perfectly formed, spherical pearls, within a couple of decades the industry collapsed. At the same time, the discovery of oil proved both a blessing and a curse. Many pearlers abandoned their way of life and left the area, but others stayed and reaped the benefits of the flow of liquid gold. Frances Gillespie describes the men and women whose lives revolved around the tears from heaven - not...



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