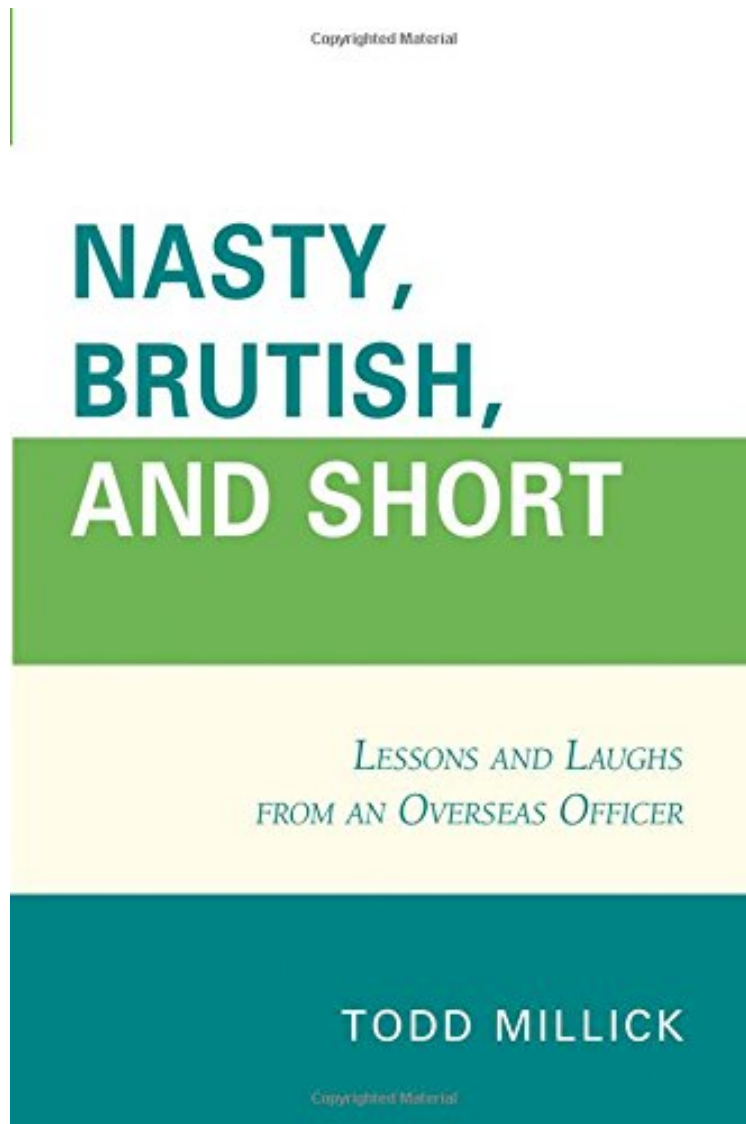


[Free and download] Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Lessons and Laughs from an Overseas Officer

# Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Lessons and Laughs from an Overseas Officer

*Todd Millick*

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#1106328 in Books 2016-06-01 2016-06-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.09 x .51 x 6.081, .0 #File Name: 0761867821170 pages | File size: 61.Mb

**Todd Millick : Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Lessons and Laughs from an Overseas Officer** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Lessons and Laughs from an Overseas Officer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Books like this don't come along very often By customer Most travel memoirs are either rambunctious tales of drunken debauchery, or politically correct accounts of the Third World,

composed by authors who spent only a few weeks abroad. As a result, they usually contain just a few funny or clever moments that you remember from the entire story. I found this memoir refreshingly different. The American author lived for years overseas and it shows. His book is chock full of memorable anecdotes, metaphors, word play, and unique ways of looking at the world - page after page - which bring these countries to life. The author is also a skillful writer - using clean and clear prose - and I really liked his simple style. He compares international relations to personal ones - a technique which resonated with me, as I also love to travel and explore the world. If there is one critique, one thing missing, I would have liked to know why he was posted to these countries with "the U.S. Government" in the first place! Obviously it's up to the author what he wants to reveal, but the missing context of why (and even when) he was there left me feeling a little empty at times. Overall, though, this is a great (and easy) read and meant for those who want to know what it's really like to live, not just travel, overseas. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ) These books are good (and often excellent) for what they are. By Andrew Mitchell Most books about life in other countries fall into one of two categories: one, the travelog or two, the journey of self exploration that just happens to take place overseas (Tuscany, Provence.) These books are good (and often excellent) for what they are, but they never really give you a feel for what it is like to live in a country. When you find one that does (like Tim Macintosh Smith's immortal *Travels in Dictionary Land*, or Stephen Clarke's *A Year in the Merde*) they are something special. *Nasty, Brutish and Short*, Todd Millick's first book of prose, does a nice job of sharing the feeling of living as an expatriate in a number of countries, including some that are often overlooked: Bulgaria, Romania, Pakistan, Haiti, to name a few. Millick brings to bear his personal brand of curmudgeonry on the many countries he has called home. His clean writing style showcases his ironic wit, as well as some genuine affection for a wide variety of cultures. I found his first hand accounts of living in Egypt during its recent revolution particularly entertaining. He brings to life the essential strangeness of trying to live a normal life while the world around you is turned on its head. While Americans watched the people of Cairo gathering in Tahrir Square to cast off a dictator, Millick was living a few streets away trying to figure out how to simply buy milk and eggs. He gives you a first hand peek into a life that few people have lived and most would avoid, and he does so with deft humor that is as pleasant to read as it must have been harrowing to live. *Nast Brutish and Short* is published by Hamilton Book. Order a copy and take it to the beach, I was glad I did. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Millick and his wife were able to sustain themselves in the conditions they often found in these countries is amazing to me. By Pat H. This book is such an eye-opener regarding living in other countries with no frills. How Mr. Millick and his wife were able to sustain themselves in the conditions they often found in these countries is amazing to me. But, he tells of their adventures with a dry sense of humor. Even describing hard times--and there were many--he puts a positive face on everything. He must be a very tolerant, adaptable man. This book has me counting my blessings more than ever. Thanks for the education and good read!

This collection of irreverent essays about life overseas is a funny and endearing jaunt to a dozen countries, from England to Egypt, and Afghanistan to Haiti, as a former overseas officer speaks his mind about all the strange people and places he has encountered around the world.

Todd is a modern-day 'Gulliver,' romping through the babble and absurdity of disappearing worlds. He is an 'Ugly American' who not only sees, but thinks and writes, with awareness and irony. This is a book full of fun and biting satire . . . a witty and entertaining read. (Ken Beeth, Senior State Department Diplomat (Ret.) in Africa) About the Author Todd Millick was in the U.S. government for nearly twenty years. He studied medieval history at the University of Colorado and received a master's degree from Cambridge. He has also published a collection of poetry called *Short and Sweet* (Middle Island Press, 2016).