

[PDF] The International Bank Of Bob: Connecting Our Worlds One \$25 Kiva Loan At A Time

Bob Harris - pdf download free book



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Author: Bob Harris
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Description:

From While on assignment in Dubai to cover the world's most luxurious hotels, Harris got sidetracked by the stories of the indentured immigrant laborers conscripted to build these palaces of opulence. Determined to do something to help the families of the working poor worldwide, he signed

up with Kiva, an organization that allows individuals to lend money via the Internet to people in developing countries by providing “microfinancing” loans to small family businesses, for everything from buying material and supplies to the purchase of cows and goats. Not content with merely helping from afar, Harris volunteered to tour the world and meet some of the Kiva recipients, and this is where the story really begins. Traveling to challenging and often war-torn places like Peru, Bosnia, Rwanda, Cambodia, and Beirut, Lebanon, he checks out the repair shops, furniture businesses, hair salons, yogurt makers, and livestock owners who have been made successful by the microloans, but, most important, he learns firsthand about their personal and political struggles and is deeply impacted by the lives of the new friends he makes along the way. --David Siegfried

Review

"No book this important should be this delightful. Bob Harris's funny, tender, and incisive opus works as both an engaging personal memoir and a clear introduction to the world of microfinance. Filled with astonishing anecdotes and indelible characters from those corners of the world most of us never explore, *Bank of Bob* celebrates a process that is improving the lives of millions through a radically simple concept: moving us past the 'virtue of charity' to the exultation of connection. Give this book your time. It will pay you back." — **Joss Whedon, filmmaker**

"Surprising in so many ways: a travelogue that makes the people in exotic locales as accessible as your next-door neighbors; a book about poverty alleviation that often makes you laugh out loud (or cry, sometimes on the same page); and a portrayal of loving families in challenging environments that leaves you feeling stronger, more connected to the world, and full of hope. In short: joyous, humane, and inspiring." — **Arianna Huffington, President and Editor-in-Chief, *The Huffington Post Media Group***

"Bob Harris shows us how to save the world without being an insufferable prig — *The International Bank of Bob* is enlightening, inspiring, and entertaining." — **Steven Pinker, Harvard College Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, and author of *The Better Angels of Our Nature***

"Read this book. Be amazed at a man as decent as Bob Harris. Learn how the world works. Actually help improve the world. And be entertained, amused, and enlightened along the way. Seriously. Just by reading a book." — **Arthur Phillips, author of *The Tragedy of Arthur***

"Truly inspirational. Ten minutes after I finished this book, The International Bank of Ken opened in Cambodia." — **Ken Jennings, author of *Because I Said So!***

"The result of [Harris's] writing is a series of honest portraits of mothers, husbands, and farmers to whom a \$25 loan was life changing." — ***The Daily Beast***

"An engaging, fully transparent, upbeat narrative, with chockablock footnotes and resources." — ***Kirkus Reviews***

"Most travel books promise to transport you to parts of the world you've never seen. This book goes one better: it will take you to places you'd never have the courage to go, to meet people you'd never meet — from a bicycle repairman in the backstreets of Rabat to a pig trader in Tuzla to a barber in Beirut. And it's not even a travel book. It's a quest! Bob Harris goes literally (and literarily) to the ends of the earth in order to see first-hand the effects of his micro-financing loans. A writer with a big heart and a keen eye, Harris's book will make you feel optimistic, inadequate, informed, fortunate, awful, and edified. It may also inspire you to help change the world." — **Hart Hanson,**

creator, executive producer, and writer, *Bones*

"What a wonderfully uplifting book — proof positive that small things really can have a huge impact. This compassionate travelogue through the world of microfinance not only moves you to count your own blessings, it inspires you to want to make a difference in this world — just like Bob Harris has."
— **Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-winning author of *FlashForward***

"Believe it or not — and I know most people don't — there's a moral arc that bends toward justice, and the world really is becoming a better place to live. This is due in part to the spread of democratic institutions from the top down, but the real change is coming from the bottom up from people like Bob Harris, through his boots-on-the-ground approach to helping people improve their lives one small loan at a time. This book is not only inspirational, it is illuminating, enlightening and, well, damn funny!" — **Michael Shermer, publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, and author of *The Believing Brain***

"An important review of the strengths of microlending and its limitations... a fun read... powerful."—***The Boston Globe***

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