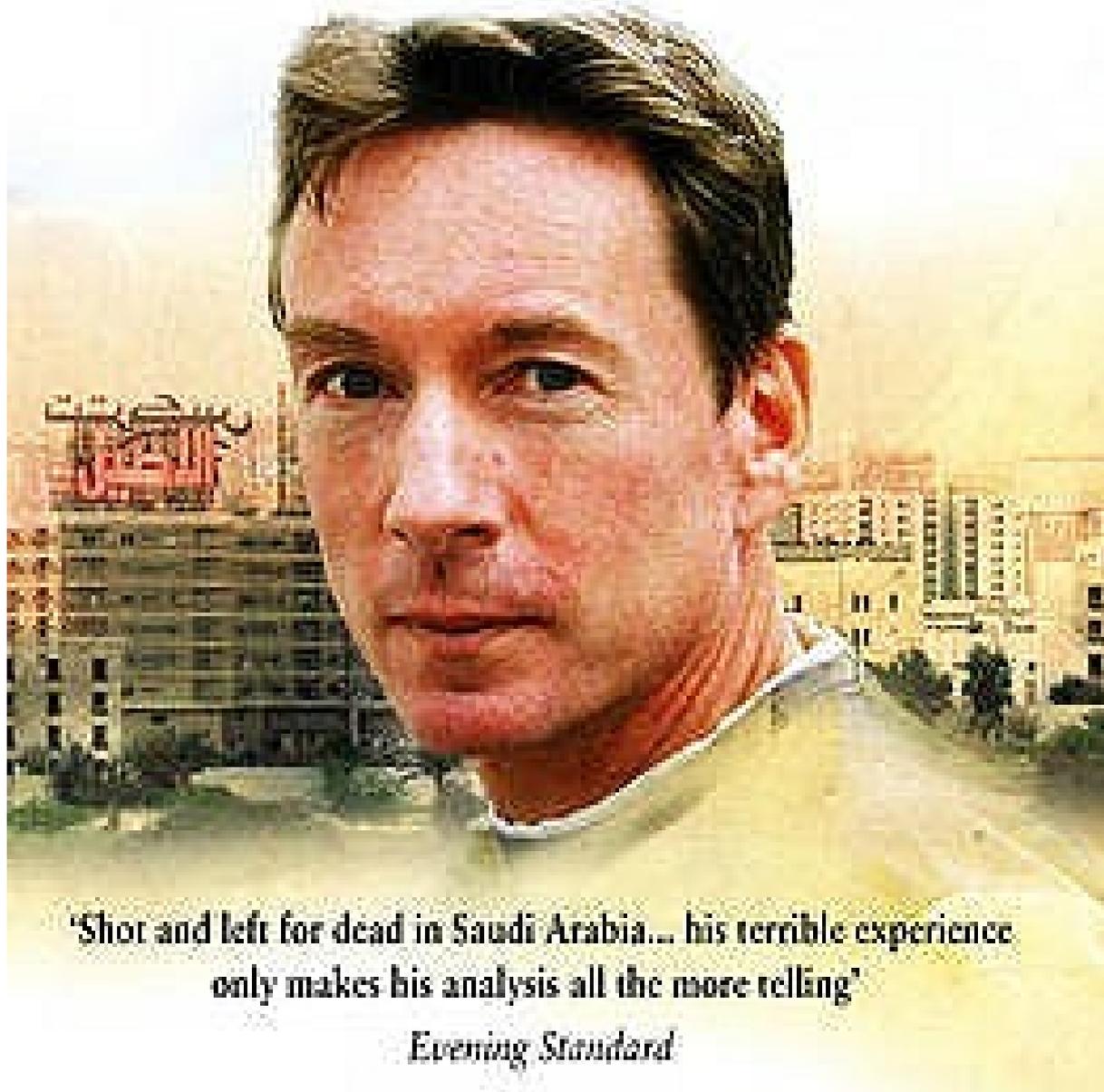

BBC SECURITY CORRESPONDENT

FRANK GARDNER BLOOD & SAND



**'Shot and left for dead in Saudi Arabia... his terrible experience
only makes his analysis all the more telling'**

Evening Standard

Blood and Sand by Frank Gardner

Frank Gardner

On 6 June 2004, Frank Gardner and cameraman Simon Cumbers have been in a suburb of Riyadh, filming a document on Al-Qaeda once they have been faced through Islamist gunmen. Simon was once killed outright. Frank was once introduced down by means of pictures within the shoulder and leg. As he lay bleeding within the street, a determine stood over him and pumped 4 extra bullets into him at element clean range... opposed to all of the odds, Frank Gardner survived and this can be his amazing account of the agonizing trip he has taken - from being shot and left for lifeless to the place he's today, partially paralysed yet alive. it's a trip that truly started 25 years past while an opportunity assembly with explorer Wilfred Thesiger encouraged what may develop into a lifelong ardour for the Arab world. this may take him through the center East and at last bring about his changing into a BBC journalist. And, within the wake of the occasions of 9/11, this ardour despatched him at the trip that got here to dominate - and approximately finish - his life: his assurance of Al-Qaeda. Honest, relocating and inspiring, his tale - now up to date for this paperback variation - finds a deep realizing of the Islamic international and gives a compelling research of the on-going 'War on Terror' and what it ability in those doubtful times.

Frank Gardner y su compañero Simon Cumbers fueron tiroteados por un grupo terrorista en Riad en 2004. Cumbers murió en el atentado y Gardner Blood and Sand resultó gravemente herido y, entre otras secuelas, quedó confinado en una silla de ruedas. El libro comienza contando el atentado para luego pasas a hablar de su vida a partir de su interés adolescente por el mundo árabe. Estudia árabe en los angeles universidad y vive y viaja por numerosos países árabes: Túnez, Egipto, Jordania, Bahrein, Sudán... Trabaja para un banco y luego pasa a ser corresponsal en Oriente Próximo. El interés humano del libro es grande. No sólo por su atentado, sino por su experiencia en el Blood and Sand mundo árabe y cómo llega a adquirirla. En este sentido el libro es excelente. Haber sobrevivido a un atentado de estas características y ser capaz de contar de forma amena los numerosísimos aspectos positivos de este mundo sin pizca de resentimiento, así como su costosa rehabilitación y adaptación a las secuelas de las heridas, tiene un mérito indudable. Sin embargo, en ningún lugar del libro hay análisis ni detalles sobre el contexto o l. a. situación de los lugares que visita. Se limita a contarnos lo bien que lo ha pasado o los maravillosos contactos que ha hecho entre jeques, príncipes, grandes personalidades o, en las últimas páginas, con los angeles realeza británica. Por ejemplo, en su visita a Kosovo no cube casi nada de lo que ocurría por allí, sólo lo bien que se comía en el campamento de refugiados organizado por los emiratos. De Bahrein, que se codea con jeques y príncipes, que hace surf y esquí acuático y que las azafatas de Gulf Air están muy buenas. Pues vale, pero que quede claro: este es el relato de los angeles vida de un pijo londinense que se lo monta de miedo en un mundo convulso en el que, al final, tiene l. a. mala suerte de que le metan un montón de tiros. No busque el lector contexto, análisis, explicaciones ni información geopolítica o periodística. En una ocasión nos cuenta que regaló a Margaret Thatcher l. Blood and Sand a. foto enmarcada de una pintada que había visto en Kuwait en agradecimiento a Blood and Sand los angeles primera ministra y cómo ésta recibe el presente con desdén. Este episodio resulta revelador de su falta de sentido crítico y de su desmedido

interés en estar a bien con los poderosos. En las peores páginas parece un adulator del poder británico, sin chispa de crítica hacia Blair, Bush o el príncipe que sea. Justifica los angeles invasión de Irak con razones tan peregrinas como que si Sadam no tenía armas de destrucción masiva, acabaría teniéndolas o, si no él, seguro que su sucesor las procuraría. Además, l. a. invasión puso fin a un régimen que Blood and Sand asesinaba y torturaba, aunque unas líneas más abajo: "A finales de 2006 Naciones Unidas notificó que las torturas en Irak son probablemente peores en l. a. actualidad que bajo el régimen de Sadam" (p. 314). En las páginas que trata sobre su etapa en Basora nos cuenta lo bien que se llevaban los soldados británicos con los angeles población iraquí. En fin, Gardner se revela como un fiel continuador de los angeles saga de Lawrence y l. a. escuela orientalista más al servicio de los intereses británicos en Oriente Medio. Una última cosa: los angeles traducción al castellano es tan mala que te pone de mal humor. Cuando l. a. traductora cube que el rey Abdallah tiene acento del centro del Atlántico (¿de las Azores?) es como para azotarla en público (gracias, Ignatius). Podría conmutársele los angeles pena si éste fuera el único error, pero cada página rebosa disparates.

Blood And Sand

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