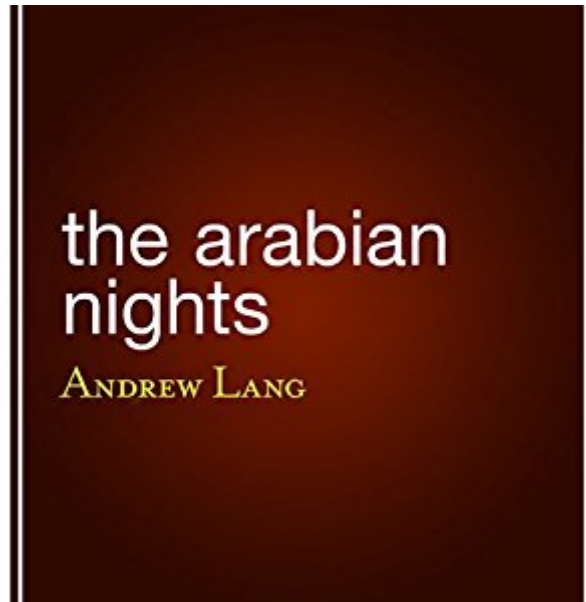




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The Arabian Nights



Synopsis

Full of mischief, valor, ribaldry, and romance, The Arabian Nights has enthralled readers for centuries. These are the tales that saved the life of Scheherazade, whose husband, the king, executed each of his wives after a single night of marriage. Beginning an enchanting story each evening, Scheherazade always withheld the ending: A thousand and one nights later, her life was spared forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had been wanting to read the Arabian Nights for a while now, so I purchased this because it was "uncensored" and contained the best, most popular stories. The stories are great in their almost original form and like another user said, I've learned some new vocabulary. I did, for some reason, expect the cloth cover underneath the jacket to be the same pattern as the outer, but it's not and the book is a lot bigger than I expected, guess I should have read the description more carefully. I do wish there had been more pictures to show what the book looked like, however.

I like Aladdin. The book is a little bit hard to chew through with the big fancy words and such but I think it adds to it, to read it the way the original stories were meant to be told.

Burton weaves an entire world, dazzling in its splendor and detail if arguably ethnocentric, e.g., in its depiction of working-class Arabs as thieves, liars, schemers, and plotters--who, in some cases, beat

their own mothers until gently "corrected" by the sultan's bastinado. I agree with many of my fellow reviewers that Burton's English can present difficulties--in some cases, exceptional difficulties--though those who can read the King James Bible of 1611 should have no difficulty with Burton's Victorian vocabulary and sentence structures. (To be quite honest, the lack of a single paragraph break is more troubling--foreboding, even, at first sight--than the choice of vocabulary. Just be warned that words that you think you know you really don't know, unless you consider the underlying Greek or Latin roots. For example, "prevent" means "come before," which--while counterintuitive to the modern reader--makes perfect sense insofar as 'pre-' is Latin for 'before' and 'venire' is Latin for 'come'.) Prepare to be seduced, astonished, and bewildered by the fantastic magic of the world that Burton offers us--noting, albeit, that his world is a melange of cultural elements culled from the Arabian peninsula, Iran, India, Turkey, even Morocco--and be admonished that there is plenty of detailed erotic content (sometimes bowdlerized as "they fell to a-dallying with one another" or some such) that is best kept from younger children. Admittedly, the collection of footnotes at the end--and the continual restarting of numbering from tale to tale--can present a hindrance, but this should not present a problem, as the footnotes seldom deal with the actual flow of the story, instead offering obscure (even pedantic) historical or linguistic minutiae. Lastly, as a cultural backdrop against which to evaluate and ponder these stories, consider that the Middle East of Burton's collection represented the erstwhile summit of man's achievements: while illiterate Europeans were slaving away as landed noblemen's serfs, living in rude wooden huts, and fleeing like frightened rats from hordes of invading Mongols or bands of merciless Viking raiders, ninth-century Middle Easterners lived in splendid cities; enjoyed written fluency in their native languages; exercised religious freedom; and engaged in bold, productive research in medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and pharmacy at the sultan's behest and sponsorship.

I loved how interesting the stories were and how detailed they can get. You can get so invested in the stories of the characters like Sinbad. I would recommend this book to anyone seeking a great fiction book they read sink into for a few hours.

I had this book as a kid and now I am reading it to my daughter. We read a story a night and she loves it!

This book is great. I was somewhat familiar with some of these stories from childhood, and I really wanted to delve into the book. I can not stress enough how delightful it is to have the

unexpurgated version, plenty of violence, sensuality, and cool new words to look up. I highly recommend this book, though I agree it is quite large for bedtime reading. The pictures are very artistic, so it doesn't feel like you are reading a children's book.

As soon as I got the book I started reading it, simple as that. The book kind of reminded me a little bit of the King James Bible because it seems archaic, but I love the fact that unlike the King James Bible this translation leaves a essence of the Persians. Have a dictionary prepared because you will learn some new words. Besides that I can say the author done a good job on keeping me into the book by providing good imagery with his words.

These were the stories I remember. I really enjoy the Arabian Nights, the places you will go and the quality of the stories are amazing. I'm glad I could find it!

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