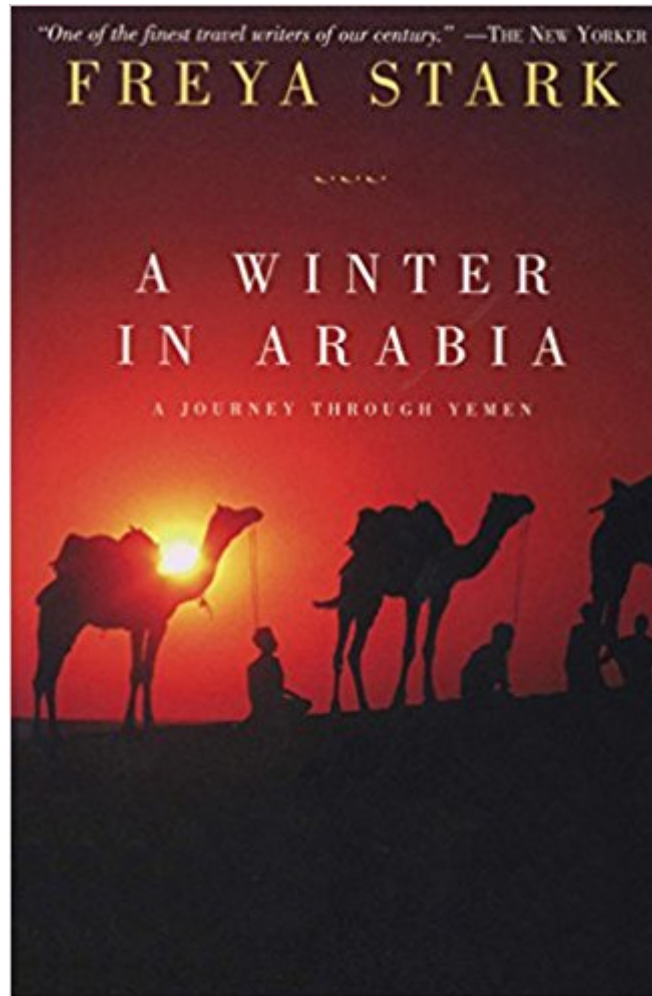




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A Winter In Arabia: A Journey Through Yemen



Synopsis

One of the most unconventional and courageous explorers of her time, Freya Stark chronicled her extraordinary Travels in the Near East, establishing herself as a twentieth century heroine. *A Winter in Arabia* recounts her 1937-8 expedition in what is now Yemen, a journey which helped secure her reputation not only as a great travel writer, but also as a first-rate geographer, historian, and archaeologist. There, in the land whose "nakedness is clothed in shreds of departed splendor," she and two companions spent a winter in search of an ancient South Arabian city. Offering rare glimpses of life behind the veil-the subtleties of business and social conduct, the elaborate beauty rituals of the women, and the bitter animosities between rival tribes, Freya Stark conveys the "perpetual charm of Arabia ... that the traveler finds his own level there simply as a human being."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"As an explorer, Stark could claim no major discoveries, but her acute observations and her surveying skills had earned her professional respect . . . She was a vivid describer of scenes and landscapes . . . She was a finely calibrated recording instrument in a land that was just awakening to the changes being wrought by paved roads, nation-states, and oil . . . "A Winter in Arabia" recounts how, bored and disillusioned by an expedition with a trained archeologist and with its painstakingly glorious achievements, Stark set off again to explore the frankincense lands . . . There is a quiet melancholy to these books-- an unshakable sense of cultures irretrievably lost, and of the ruthlessness of time, which seems to arise both from the nature of the subject and from the nature of the traveler growing old." -- "The New Yorker" "Freya Stark... must be left to ride her donkey

forever along the empty beaches and the roadless valleys of the 50s Turkish landscape... She, like Homer, Al

7 1.5-hour cassettes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I had never heard of Freya Stark when I purchased this, but it was a great book. I had to adjust to the pace, because it really is an old fashioned account of the pace and culture of travel in the 30s, but it's a wonderful insider's account of passing through a Muslim society before cultures were all "opened up" to one another. When you get into it, it's easy to appreciate the details that are included and the slower pace, and pulls the reader back to a time when people appreciated simple things and took the most care with such pastimes as handwritten letters and travel journals. The focus is on the personalities and day to day activities of the travelers and Ms. Stark's ingenuity and finesse in navigating the social challenges of being a British woman abroad, alone, before that was expected. Very interesting.

I haven't finished this book yet, but it's shaping up to be a really good read. Freya's recounting of her travels through Yemen are providing me with some keen insights into Arab culture. The society seems to be conservative and isolated from the rest of the world.

This is a fascinating book. A must read for anyone who enjoys travel writing, is interested in the history of the Middle East, or just wants to read about some-one who thumbed her nose at the "establishment"! Well written too.

the book arrived on time, in great condition. i recommend the seller and the author. freya stark traveled foreign lands before it was a popular thing to do. she documents her journey with incredible insight.

Thank you

don't like her style of writing

A travel memoir written in the late 1930s - and 1000 years ago. It's a beautifully written, gentle book of a harsh land and its tribal peoples. Stark, is both poet and pragmatist. More musings and

personal interactions than places and things, the book is a pleasure to read and savor. I wonder if the history of the Middle East wouldn't be improved had the colonial powers been guided by her sympathetic but unblinking understanding of Arab village and bedouin cultures.

This is what travel writing should be. One travels to see places and meet people. Ms. Stark's descriptions of places and travel thereto are always informed and interesting. The encounters with people are the little jewels studding her books, though. She brings a worldly but sympathetic attitude to her encounters with everyone she meets, from potentates to brigands. Read it.

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