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The Desert and the Sown: Travels in Palestine and Syria

Gertrude Bell
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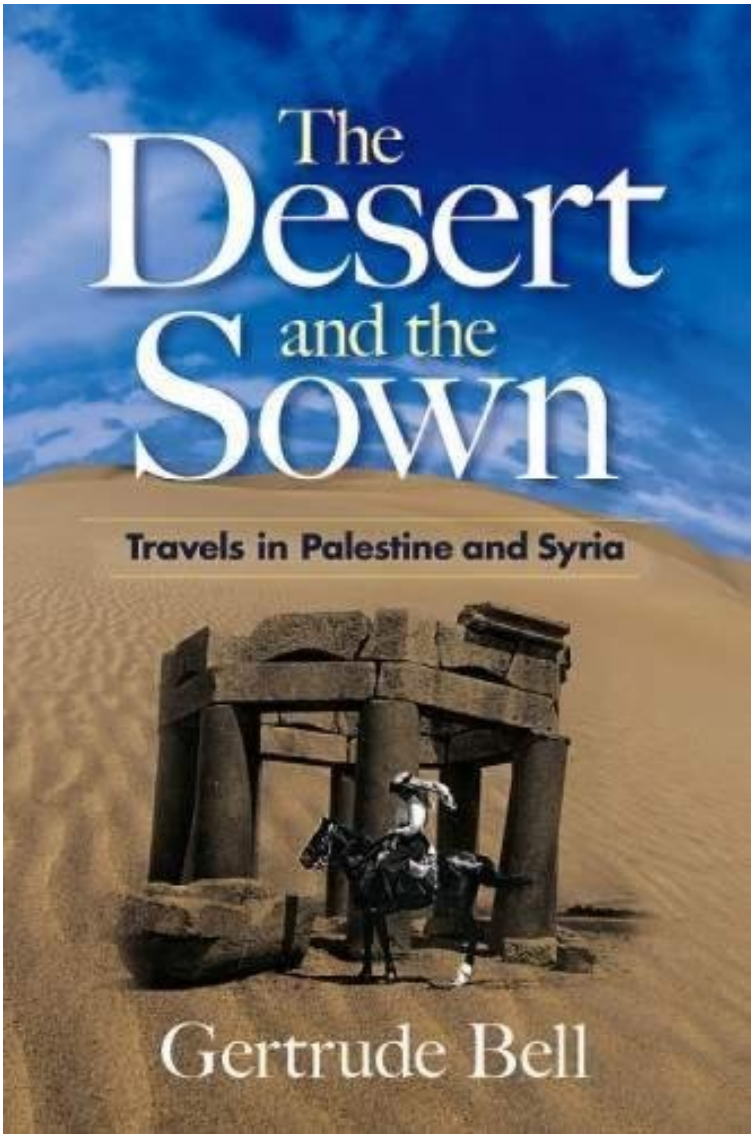

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Gertrude Bell : The Desert and the Sown: Travels in Palestine and Syria before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Desert and the Sown: Travels in Palestine and Syria:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Formidable FemaleBy Cornelia MontgomeryShe was a formidable woman, in her time, to travel in these times and places. She writes very well - I actually couldn't put it down.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Successful British woman of early 20th centuryBy gonkuinGreat book, good story told in her personal letters, so glad Seller had it, perhaps little commonly-known intelligent, gifted, early explorer in Middle East.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Stephen SmithFine

Born to transcend the social constraints of Victorian England, Gertrude Bell left the comforts of her privileged life for the unconventional but thrilling world of the Middle East. One of the first women to graduate from Oxford, she traveled to Persia and became passionately drawn to the Arab people, the language, and their architecture. A skilled archeologist, historian, and linguist, Bell traveled the world and wrote compelling, perceptive accounts of her daring journeys. The Desert and the Sown is considered to be one of her masterpieces. A magnificent account of personal discovery and political history, this intriguing narrative traces Bell's 1905 sojourn through Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine. With an eye for vivid detail, "the female Lawrence of Arabia" offers intriguing images from her often dangerous "wild travel" through regions never seen by another foreign woman. One hundred sixty extraordinary photos illustrate camel caravans; ruins of castles and monasteries; local markets and bazaars; Damascus with its gardens, domes, and minarets; and more. But it's Bell's impressions and conversations with contacts and confidantes of varied cultures that will hold you captive. An inspiring portrait of a woman who overcame the barriers of her generation, as well as a piece of history that offers insight into current events in the Middle East, The Desert and the Sown is fascinating reading for travelers, explorers, and citizens of the world. The book also served as the basis for the 2016 Werner Herzog film Queen of the Desert, starring Nicole Kidman, James Franco, and Robert Pattinson. Map included.

About the AuthorGertrude Bell was a British writer, archaeologist, and political analyst who left a privileged life in Victorian England to become a citizen of the world. One of the first women to graduate from Oxford, she traveled to Persia, where she was passionately drawn to the Arab people, their language, and their architecture. Bell's achievements there were stunning: she established an archaeology musem and was one of the people responsible for creating the Iraq that exists today.