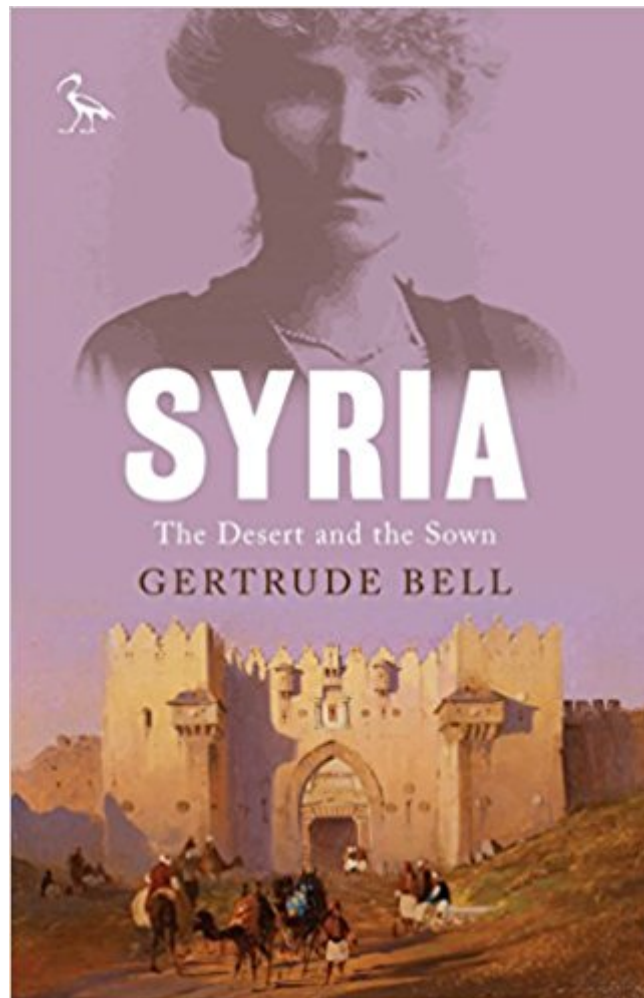




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Syria: The Desert And The Sown (Tauris Parke Paperbacks)



Synopsis

"You may rely upon one thing – I'll never engage in creating kings again; it's too great a strain." Gertrude Bell - traveller, scholar, archaeologist, spy - was one of the most powerful figures in the Middle East in the 20th century. With T.E. Lawrence, she was a significant force behind the Arab Revolt and was responsible for creating the boundaries of the modern state of Iraq, as well as installing the Hashemite dynasty, with Faisal I as king, in Iraq and Transjordan. Her knowledge of the Arab world was forged through decades of travel and the relationships she built across Arabia with tribal leaders and kings, who referred to her as Umm al Mu'mineen, or Mother of the Faithful. In the winter of 1906, she undertook an often dangerous journey through Greater Syria - Damascus, Jerusalem, Beirut, Antioch and Alexandretta - and her portrait of the landscapes, people and customs of a part of the world that very few had explored at the time is now a classic of travel writing. Bell's Syria illuminates a region that continues to preoccupy us today as well as portraying the unique life of a remarkable, still-controversial and ultimately tragic woman.

Book Information

Series: Tauris Parke Paperbacks

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Tauris Parke Paperbacks; New edition (March 30, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1780766912

ISBN-13: 978-1780766911

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.1 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Gertrude Bell, CBE (1868-1926), "the Queen of the Desert", was one of Oxford University's most brilliant students and the greatest female mountaineer of her time. She was also a writer, traveler, political officer, archeologist and spy who helped forge the boundaries of the modern Middle East.

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