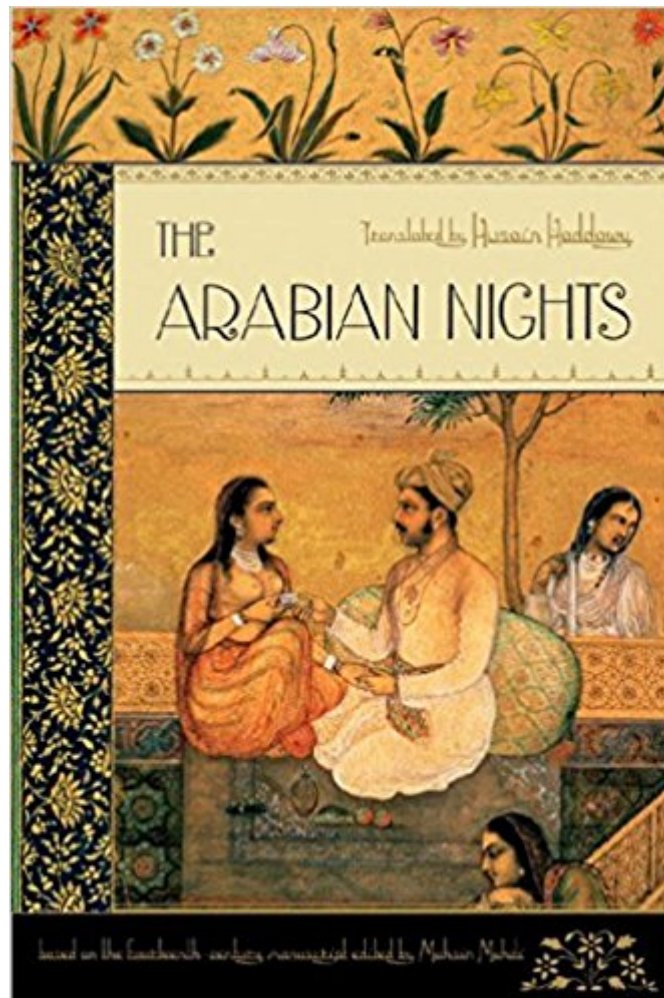




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The Arabian Nights (New Deluxe Edition)



Synopsis

Now as sumptuously packaged as they are critically acclaimed— a new deluxe trade paperback edition of the beloved stories. The stories of *The Arabian Nights* (and stories within stories, and stories within stories within stories) are famously told by the Princess Shahrazad, under the threat of death should the king lose interest in her tale. Collected over the centuries from India, Persia, and Arabia, and ranging from adventure fantasies, vivacious erotica, and animal fables, to pointed Sufi tales, these stories provided the daily entertainment of the medieval Islamic world at the height of its glory. No one knows exactly when a given story originated, and many circulated orally for centuries before being written down; but in the process of telling and retelling, they were modified to reflect the general life and customs of the Arab society that adapted them— a distinctive synthesis that marks the cultural and artistic history of Islam. This translation is of the complete text of the Mahdi edition, the definitive Arabic edition of a fourteenth-century Syrian manuscript, which is the oldest surviving version of the tales and considered to be the most authentic.

Book Information

Paperback: 560 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 118 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,681 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in *Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology* #132 in *Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories* #145 in *Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales*

Customer Reviews

—“The resourceful Shahrazad... has never been more entertaining than in this fresh and vigorous version of this immortal book.” — Doris Lessing, *The Independent*
—“Easily the clearest, most fluent and readable translation.” — A.S. Byatt, *Sunday Times* [London]
—“A distinguished new translation.” — Edward Said, *The Nation*

Text: English, Arabic (translation) --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

This book never ceased to amaze me. I'm an American and Christian and although the morality of some stories could be questioned from that perspective. If you open your heart, and your mind, you will be taken on a journey you will never forget.

I'm enjoying The Arabian Nights so far. The structure of the narrative is quite unique, as the stories are intertwined in an unpredictable way. My only critique is that some stories are dull, progressing slower than others. Overall, though, it's an intriguing book--definitely not the typical Western short story collection.

The pages of this book are deckled and I love the feel of it. The cover is beautiful but the pages are really thin and the book is about an inch thick. Arabian Nights is also called "1001 Arabian Nights" and this book has 271 beautifully written stories. I attached an image of the table of contents in case anyone wants to see that!

The introduction was fascinating to me, seriously. I loved reading about the origins and evolution of the work. It was totally not what I was looking for as far as the stories, but I can't give it fewer stars based on that. Why should I give an author or particular book fewer stars because I made a bad choice? I hate when people do that.

It's a little late to critique this, having been written centuries ago. It survived, though, because it is a fantastic and fascinating series of interwoven tales. The translation is great - very easy to read in modern English.

Haddawy's translation of Arabian Nights is perhaps the best, with just the right amount of emphasis on the erotic elements - not too little or (like Burton) too much. Volume One was better, although this volume contains the stories which Western readers are most familiar with: Aladdin, Ali Baba, and Sinbad.

Best translation ever. And very nicely printed. In short, a pleasure to handle and read. Ditto for the companion book, 'Sinbad And Other Stories From the Arabian Nights.

As a previous reviewer commented, this collection is "imaginative and rich." I could not say it better. Many of the stories of Sherherazade are familiar to us all - Sinbad, the genie in the bottle ... what I was not expecting, however, was the way in which these stories were woven together. The story begins with a description of the setting: the Sassanid king, after being cuckolded by his wife, decides to marry again - but only for one night, after which she is killed. The vizier's daughter volunteers to become the king's next wife; her father urges her not to, relating a parable - which in turn leads to the daughter's response through another parable. The marriage occurs, and in this manner - one story leading into another and another, the the reader (like the king himself) is helplessly pulled into the stories. A brilliant literary device. The stories themselves are beautiful and varied - some are fantastic (genies, flying horses, talking donkeys), others poignant. It was difficult to put the book down, and each tale had my rapt attention. How much of this is the result of the translator and how much of this is a function of just good story-telling is hard to determine. That, in addition to being entertaining, the stories provide a glimpse into Arabic (and to a lesser extent, Persian) culture is an added bonus. Recommended reading.

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