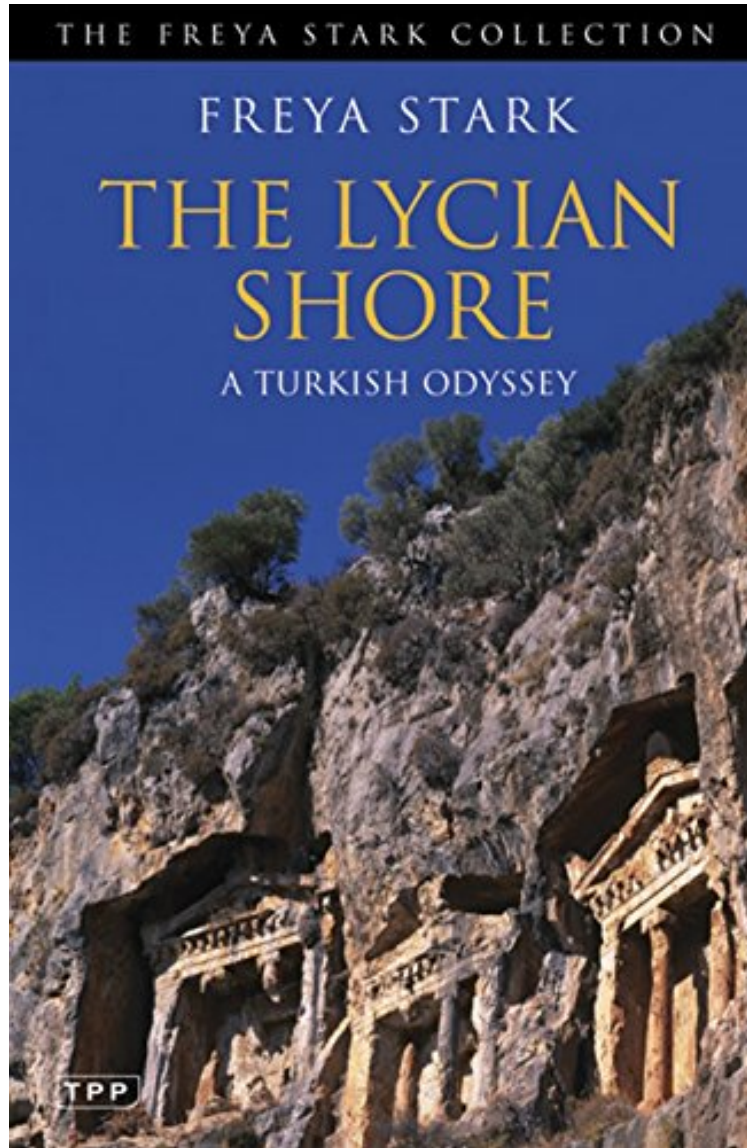


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The Lycian Shore (Tauris Parke Paperbacks)

Freya Stark

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Freya Stark : The Lycian Shore (Tauris Parke Paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lycian Shore (Tauris Parke Paperbacks):

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Philosophical pay-dirtBy Larry N. StoutFreya Stark at times delivers lyrical prose that makes the reader salivate. At other times she smothers the reader in what seems an ostentatious display of Classical learning -- breathlessly long history lessons -- so that what is nicely discursive can become distractingly excursive. I wish there were more of her interesting firsthand travel experiences per se, and

fewer, or shorter, history lectures. That notwithstanding, this peculiar literary conglomerate contains some gold nuggets of philosophy, which in fact Stark is able to formulate precisely because of her very exceptional historical perspectives. This, for example, is timeless: "...the summit of civilization is touched by the middle class. It walks along the razor's edge between the tyrant and the proletariat and is short-lived for that reason....I will hold that the middle class produces civilization because it is the only class constantly trained to come to a conclusion, poised as it is between the depth and the height. It is not rich enough to have everything, nor poor enough to have nothing, and has to choose: to choose between a succulent table and a fine library, between travel and a flat in town, between a car and a new baby, or a fur coat and a ball dress: it has enough of the superfluous to give it freedom from necessity, but only through the constant use of discrimination: its life therefore is one long training of the judgement and the will. This by itself need not manufacture greatness; but it is the soil in which it is possible to make it grow. And for this reason, when the rich become too rich and the poor too poor, and fewer and fewer people live under the constant discipline of their decisions, the age of greatness withers. To produce the lifelong stimulus of choice both in thought and action should be the aim of all education, and the statesman ought above all things to provide a government that remains in the hands of people whose life has trained them in the inestimable art of making up their minds." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting read

By GwennieAfter reading Ionia I expected another history lesson. This volume is different. I like it because there is more attention paid to the current (1952) customs and people of this part of Turkey. Frey Stark provides pictures with words. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. One of a kind...By John P. Jones III Freya Stark lived for an entire century (1893-1993). One senses that it was her indomitable spirit and relentless curiosity that simply drove her to live that long, in order to "fit it all in." Peripatetic and immensely erudite, she learned both Persian and Arabic, handy linguistic skills when traveling in the remoter regions of Southwest Asia. Often she travelled alone, visiting areas where virtually no Western male had seen. I've read, reviewed and highly recommend two other works of hers: *The Southern Gates of Arabia: A Journey in the Hadhramaut* (Modern Library Paperbacks) which is an account of her 1934 trip to the Hadhramaut, famous in the days of the Roman Empire for its frankincense, and, much more recently, for being the ancestor homeland of Osama bin Laden. The other book is *The Minaret of Djam: An Excursion in Afghanistan* (Freya Stark Collection), an account of a 1968 trip through the heart of Afghanistan. She relates, among other anecdotes, to taking a bath in a cold mountain spring, at the age of 75. Hard-core, as we once said. "The Lycian Shore" is an account of her 1952 trip, in the autumn, along the Turkish coast, by small boat. She was "one of a kind," and I suspect they just don't make them like that anymore. The turmoil and displacement of the Second World War had largely subsided. Stark's travels in the Hadhramaut she had done solo. With the success of her earlier depictions of her travels, she obviously developed contacts in the British diplomatic corps, which she used both on this trip, as well as the one in Afghanistan. And it was a different era for the diplomats too. Instead of being barricaded against the population, their duties involved learning about, and traveling in the country. David Balfour was the Consular official stationed in Smyrna (modern day Izmir). For a couple of months they travelled, along with Balfour's wife, and the "native help," in a 30 ft. sloop, "the Elfin," along the coast. The title is a tad misleading, since Lycia itself is only the main protuberance on the southwestern shore, located between the island of Rhodes, and Antalya. Approximately three-fourths of the book concerns their coastal travels before they reach Lycia. The true strength of this work is Stark's phenomenal knowledge of the ancient world. Though she will make references to other periods, for example, the Roman empire, as well as World War II, the vast majority of the historical references date from the 5th and 4th Century, B.C., from the Battle of Marathon to the partitioning of Alexander the Great's empire (there is an excellent, succinct appendix that covers key events during those two centuries.) She had read Xenophon, Thucydides, Plutarch, Livy, and numerous others, and had internalized the knowledge and can relate it to a given place as though it had happened only yesterday. I disliked Robert Byron's *The Road to Oxiana* since he seemed oblivious to the present, and focused exclusively on the ancient world, going from "one pile of stones to another." Stark has that tendency too, but she clearly announces that this is her intention. On the other hand, she does relate interesting anecdotes concerning the present, including her visit to a monastery on Padmos, the school teacher who had never seen the ancient ruins in his village, and the Bedouin who still traveled along the coast (the latter was a big surprise to me.) Speaking of the nomads, Stark says: "for the nomad dies in prison, and so does a man, in a world that he feels too small...Happiness, as I rode down towards the beach in the evening, seemed to me to belong to those three ages, ever with a growing awareness: to the nomad, whose infinity lies about him unquestioned; to the Aegean sailing without fear toward a yet undiscovered horizon; and to those, in the religions of our time, 'whose service is perfect freedom' since they have seen their bars melted and infinity renewed." Stark continued to renew her infinity, all the way to 100. As a final note, we had a dinner party last night, and one of the topics was the turmoil in the publishing industry, with the "harm" being done by, er...ah... the present site I'm reviewing on. Not surprisingly perhaps, I leaned in favor of the present site, for renewing and expanding the number of possibilities for a writer to reach a reading audience. Furthermore, like many other "elites," from Wall Street, to the leadership at various governmental agencies, I espoused the position that the big publishing houses have abdicated in their duties, particular by publishing numerous frauds, on which *Love and Consequences: A Memoir of Hope and Survival* is but one example. I'm happy to say that a wonderful counterpoint to my thesis is Tauris Parke, who deserves

kudos to the second power, at least, for keeping Stark in print, and I look forward to the new editions being released over the next year or so. 5-stars for this one.

Lycia, on the southwestern coast of Turkey, is an ancient land steeped in mystery, myth, and legend. Figured prominently throughout history and literature, Lycia is known as home to the fiery chimera; heartland of worship for the goddess Leto; old ally of Troy; lure to conquering Cyrus and Alexander; and irresistible destination for centuries of travelers, artists, and writers. Part of "The Turquoise Coast", Lycia now attracts more tourists to its glimmering shores than any other part of Turkey. In the early 1950s, following the trail of the ancient Persian and Greek traders, famed travel writer Freya Stark set out by boat to explore the Lycian coast. South from Smyrna, she was guided by traces of Lycia's rich history and cultural heritage. For all those who now follow in her wake, there can be no better, more evocative or knowledgeable guide to Turkey's most enchanting coast.

Readers of Starks reissued works...will find a writer who endows everyone in her field of vision with the heightened interest that she felt herself. (The New Yorker)Her books make Stark a remarkable figure under any circumstances. Having been a woman whose roamings through Middle Eastern deserts and mountains put her in the top ranks of the fabled Royal Geographical Society makes her more so. (Richard Bernstein, The New York Times)It was rare to leave her company without feeling that the world was somehow larger and more promising. Her life was something of a work of art The books in which she recorded her journeys were seductively individual Nomad and social lioness, public servant and private essayist, emotional victim and mythmaker. (Colin Thubron, The New York Times)Dame Freyas was a passionate imagination, and her embrace of landscape was fierce... [She] was often called a travel writer. The adjective, however, limits the accomplishment. (The New York Times)"[Freya Stark] writes angelically in the great tradition of Charles Doughty and T. E. Lawrence. The pulse quickens as you read, because she can bring the sights and sounds of incredible countries before you in the twinkling of an eye." (The New York Times Book)It's hard to think of a writer in the travel game who most closely demonstrates the merits of Flauberts three rules for good writing: clarity, clarity and finally clarity. Re-reading her now, her restrained powers of description shine as brightly as they ever did, and they will continue to shine until the next Ice Age... Her books are more relevant than ever. Besides sheer enjoyment, one should read her for a fresh perspective on the intractable issues dogging Christian-Muslim relations. She was able to see both sides and what she found was similarity, not difference. The greatest woman traveller of the 20th century? I think so. (Sara Wheeler, The Times)She has written the best travel books of her generation and her name will survive as an artist in prose. (The Observer)From the Publisher7 1-hour cassettesAbout the AuthorFreya Stark (1893-1993), called "the poet of travel," was the doyenne of Middle East travel writers and one of the most courageous and adventurous female travelers in history. She traveled extensively through Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, and Southern Arabia, where she became the first western woman to travel through the Hadhramaut. Usually solo, she ventured to places few Europeans had ever been, and her journeys earned her the title of Dame along with huge public acclaim. Her classic books include Travels in the Near East, Ionia, The Southern Gates of Arabia, Alexander's Path, Dust in the Lion's Paw, East is West and Valleys of the Assassins.