

[E-BOOK] The Marsh Arabs (Penguin Classics)

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*Wilfred Thesiger*

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WILFRED THESIGER

*The Marsh Arabs*

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**Wilfred Thesiger : The Marsh Arabs (Penguin Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Marsh Arabs (Penguin Classics):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well written, engaging, uniqueBy Dennis J. BoccippioAn excellent read; the writing style is both descriptive and engaging, and the story itself fascinating. The book includes over a hundred photographic plates which augment the story tremendously, especially for the amazing reed mudhifs which are frequently the setting. (The photos and more can be found in the Pitt Rivers Museum collection).I have not yet read

Arabian Sands but reviews of that earlier work complained about Thesiger's primitivism and romanticization of the Bedouin - I didn't see much of that in this book, only shades, and overall the telling is fairly forthright and balanced. Clearly Thesiger is no fan of modernization, but relative to the conditions in more urban Iraq at the time, there are no clear "rights" or "wrongs" on this position. In any event, it doesn't get in the way of the narrative, which captures a disappearing culture in rich depth and perspective. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Forgotten World By David Nichols What a delightful read. Thesiger lived among the marsh Madan of Iraq several months of each year between 1951 to 1958. As he traveled thru the marshes by boat, he introduces the reader to the many friends he made and to the culture of a people he came to love. Since the marshes were drained to make way for "progress" and prosperity, this forgotten world is no more. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wondering what is there today and what life is like for the people that still live there By Roger Brockway Interesting view of a remote part of Africa I was not familiar with. Wondering what is there today and what life is like for the people that still live there, if possible. RB

Five thousand years of history were here and the pattern was still unchanged. During the years he spent among the Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq, Wilfred Thesiger came to understand, admire and share a way of life that had endured for many centuries. Travelling from village to village by canoe, he won acceptance by dispensing medicines and treating the sick. In this account of his time there, he pays tribute to the hospitality, loyalty, courage and endurance of the people, describes their impressive reed houses, the waterways and lakes teeming with wildlife, the herding of buffalo and hunting of wild boar, moments of tragedy and moments of pure comedy, all in vivid, engaging detail. Untouched by the modern world until recently, these independent people, their way of life and their surroundings suffered widespread destruction under the regime of Saddam Hussein. Wilfred Thesiger's magnificent account of his time spent among them is a moving testament to their now threatened culture and the landscape they inhabit.

"It is one thing to tell the story of an expedition . . . it is quite another to convey the atmosphere. . . . This is a richly rewarding book." The Observer "His voyage through desert waters will remain, like his Arabian Sands, a classic of travel writing." The Times (London) About the Author Wilfred Thesiger (1910-2003) was a British explorer and travel writer. He was born at Addis Ababa, Abyssinia (now Ethiopia). Educated at Eton and Oxford, he worked in the Sudan Political Service and later, for a year, as a Political Officer for the Ethiopian Emperor, Haile Selassie. He is best known for two travel books: Arabian Sands (1959) and The Marsh Arabs (1964). Jon Lee Anderson (introducer) is one of America's most respected foreign correspondents and a staff writer for The New Yorker. He is the author of The Lion's Grave: Dispatches From Afghanistan (2002) and The Fall of Baghdad (2004).