



A Woman in Arabia: The Writings of the Queen of the Desert (Penguin Classics)

Gertrude Bell

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A portrait in her own words of the female Lawrence of Arabia, the subject of the upcoming major motion picture *Queen of the Desert*, starring Nicole Kidman, James Franco, Damian Lewis, and Robert Pattinson, and directed by Werner Herzog

Gertrude Bell was leaning in 100 years before Sheryl Sandberg. One of the great woman adventurers of the twentieth century, she turned her back on Victorian society to study at Oxford and travel the world, and became the chief architect of British policy in the Middle East after World War I. Mountaineer, archaeologist, Arabist, writer, poet, linguist, and spy, she dedicated her life to championing the Arab cause and was instrumental in drawing the borders that define today's Middle East.

As she wrote in one of her letters, "It's a bore being a woman when you are in Arabia." Fortright and spirited, opinionated and playful, and deeply instructive about the Arab world, this volume brings together Bell's letters, military dispatches, diary entries, and travel writings to offer an intimate look at a woman who shaped nations.

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