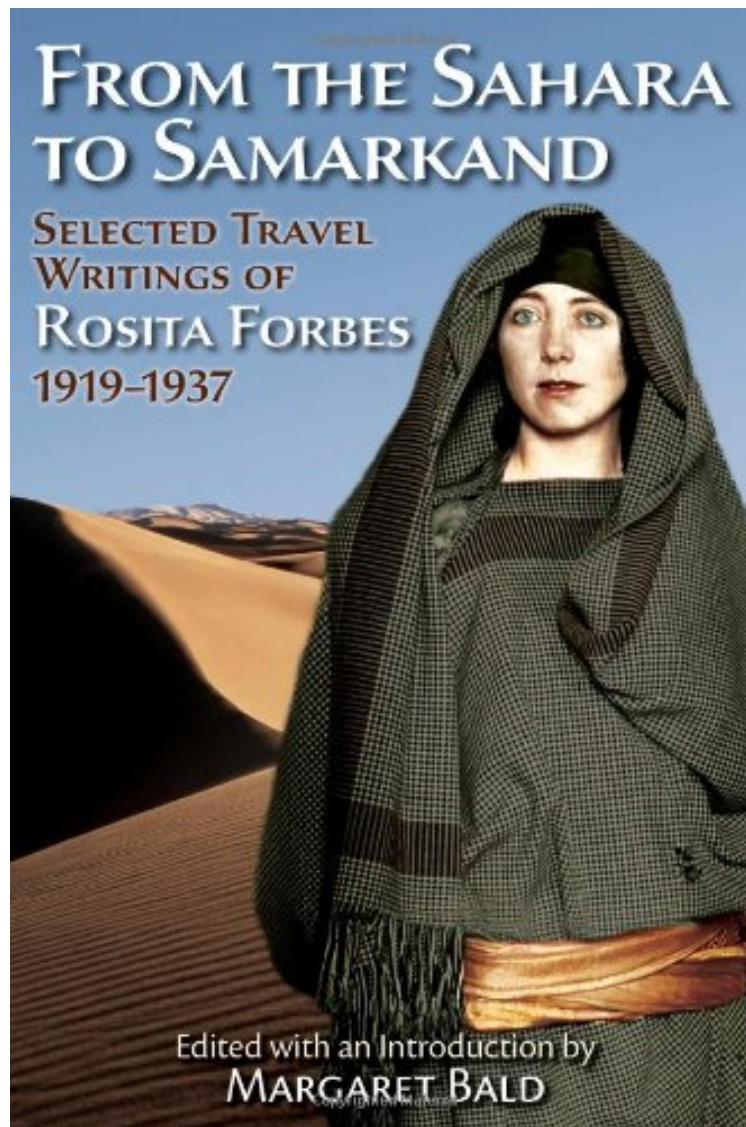


(Free and download) From the Sahara to Samarkand: Selected Travel Writings of Rosita Forbes 1919-1937

From the Sahara to Samarkand: Selected Travel Writings of Rosita Forbes 1919-1937

Rosita Forbes

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Rosita Forbes : From the Sahara to Samarkand: Selected Travel Writings of Rosita Forbes 1919-1937 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From the Sahara to Samarkand: Selected Travel Writings of Rosita Forbes 1919-1937:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Forbes' Surprisingly Modern Writing By jean chases Before ordering this book, I had never heard of the author, Rosita Forbes; but I wanted to read her travel memoir from the

1920s and 1930s to give contrast to Rory Stewart's more current writings about Afghanistan in his "The Places In Between". The authors both travel thru the mountains of Afghanistan, as an example. Ms. Forbes has an easy, contemporary writing style. She was a privileged English woman but was surprisingly down to earth. Her journeys are full of mishaps, misunderstandings, terror and dirt. She rallies, though, and never seems to belittle her hosts- the Middle Eastern people. How she remains upbeat after days slogging thru mud, for example, is shared with her readers as part of having a marvelous time. The contrast with the current day travels of Mr. Stewart is stunning. Forbes' native helpers seem almost charming and very hospitable. Mr. Stewart's, for the most part, are not. An interesting (female) explorer's point of view on the Middle East.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great travel writing when travel was quite the adventure

By Just John If you can get past the cultural bias' and the stilted writing style, the adventures of Rosita take you back to a time before ATM's, cell phones, even airplanes. I especially enjoy her writing on the Rasuli in Morocco, the last great romantic warrior of North Africa.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Exotic Travel in Distant Lands Makes for Enthralling Reading

By L. C. Henderson It is somewhat ironic that Rosita Forbes is proudly and reproachfully informed by a daughter of the Hadramauti in Madi, that "I was born in this room [of the harem] and I have never left it! Women should be taken care of and given all that they can desire, but of what use is freedom?" Forbes was the archetypical adventurer in an age in which followers of the suffragette movement were still having to militantly assert their rights to female emancipation. Often taking on the guise of a local or Muslim woman, she travelled extensively through Arabic/Islamic lands stretching from the legendary lost city of Kufara in the Sahara to Samarkand, the capital of Tamerlane in Central Asia. From the Sahara to Samarkand: Selected Travel Writings of Rosita Forbes, 1919-1937 also includes some of her travel writings from Java and Sumatra, as well as China. Her incredible courage, with her apparent implacability in the face of often daunting odds, including horrendous weather conditions and what often threatened to be the insurmountable curiosity, if not the blatant animosity, of the locals among whom she traveled has one spellbound from start to finish of this remarkable anthology.

Forbes' writing is remarkably fluent for the era in which she wrote, with the major difference from that of contemporary writing being the exceptional length of her sentences, which, however, in no way obscures the clarity of her meaning and the vividness of her descriptions. The sumptuousness of the settings into which she so often interjected herself evokes the exotic nature of her surrounds so lushly that one can often imagine oneself immersed in a painting depicting the utmost luxury of finery and fabric. Her complete lack of pretentiousness is clearly evident in the way in which she occasionally admits being at a loss for the right word in one of the many languages which she mastered in her way across those areas of the world into which few women, at that stage in or history, were willing to venture. She also avoids name-dropping to such a degree that she puts other writers to shame, and is quite up to poking quiet fun at those westerners who were more biased in their colonial outlook on those races over whom they arrogantly thought that they reigned supreme at the time. One example of such is her encounter with Colonel Lawrence when she was dressed in traditional garb, who, being unaware that she was a Briton, stated to a companion that, despite her pleasing appearance, she was probably diseased, as were many tribal women.

The text is supplemented by a photographic album of a range of well-produced black-and-white photographs depicting Rosita Forbes and some of the vast array of characters whom she encountered on her travels, in settings ranging from that of a gate of Angkor-Thom in Cambodia to outside Buckingham Palace, after an audience with the royal couple in 1921. An inspiring volume for modern-day travelers, whether of the armchair variety or of the more adventurous kind, this book is not to be missed. If you have a yen to explore foreign lands in a way that is hard to come by these days, do read these travel writings of a most remarkable woman, who was able to approach other cultures with an openness that is exceptional even for the modern day. She is a lesson to all of us who think that whatever is foreign to us is inevitably inferior.

[Reviewer for BookPleasures.com]

The extraordinary Rosita Forbes explored the Libyan desert, sailed across the Red Sea, and trekked more than a thousand miles into remote Abyssinia. She wrote some thirty books about these and other journeys, as well as biographies, histories, novels, and memoirs. She was a widely published journalist and commentator on international affairs, a popular lecturer, and a documentary filmmaker. Her story deserves to be retold and her writing discovered by a new generation.

"What an astonishing book this is! Rosita Forbes was not just intrepid but extremely intelligent, not just adventurous but deeply curious, not just a fine writer but a shrewd and sympathetic observer as well. It's rare to find a person at once so iconoclastic, unconventional and fearless and yet so attuned to her fellow human beings across the globe." -- Rosemary Mahoney, author of *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff* "Oh, how captivating are the details of her descriptions, the gutsiness of her adventures, her disguises and lies as she moves through mostly Arabic/Islamic worlds where the English are unwelcome, women are hidden, and amenities are rare! Even with a whiff of colonialism, this is a unique and captivating view of the world, from 1919 to 1937, from a beautiful and memorable woman whose playfulness with words makes this great fun to read!" -- Rita Golden Gelman, author of *Tales of a Female Nomad: Living at Large in the World* "The world could do with a few more female explorers. No one better to

lead the way than the undaunted Rosita Forbes. Praise to Margaret Bald for bringing back this great traveler and writer to the spotlight, where she belongs." --Arita Baaijens, author of *Desert Songs: A Woman Explorer in Egypt and Sudan* and fellow of the Royal Geographical Society"From the Sahara to Samarkand not only covers the travels of Rosita Forbes. It reveals the extraordinary courage mixed with knowledge and humour that were keynotes in Sita's remarkable life. Margaret Bald in her excellent introduction captures with splendid detail Sita's break from the traditions of "What Women Did" in the 1920s and 1930s. Sita travelled through desert sand by camel or on foot. She visited mosques and temples in dangerous places and met heroes in the process. She wrote with style and beautiful language. Margaret Bald's introduction, the photo album, and the travel writings themselves are elegant summaries of the splendid diversities in Sita's life." --Lord Renton of Mount Harry, nephew of Rosita Forbes and author of *Chief Whip: People, Power and Patronage in Westminster*"[Rosita Forbes's] incredible courage, with her apparent implacability in the face of often daunting odds . . . has one spellbound from start to finish of this remarkable anthology. . . . An inspiring volume for modern-day travelers, whether of the armchair variety or of the more adventurous kind, this book is not to be missed." --Lois Henderson, *BookPleasures.com*"From the Sahara to Samarkand is the first anthology of [Rosita Forbes's] travel writings to be published. It includes selections from eight of her travel books...a thorough and enthusiastic introduction to her life and work, and a photo gallery." -- Patricia Dubrava --The Bloomsbury "Almost a century ago, Rosita Forbes, the bride of an adulterous Scottish army officer, pawned her wedding ring, bought a horse, a revolver, and a camera and embarked on what would be a long, adventurous career as a travel writer... Margaret Bald provides a taste of some of Forbes's forays into the Libyan Desert, Iraq, Afghanistan and a disintegrating, post-World War I China.... Best... is the story of her attempted pilgrimage to Mecca in August 1922. Swathed in a shapeless black abaya, she identifies herself as half Turk, half Egyptian and sets out with hundreds of Muslim pilgrims on a boat sailing across the Red Sea from Egypt to Saudi Arabia." --Joshua Hammer (*The New York Times, Sunday Book* , December 5, 2010)"Almost a century ago, Rosita Forbes, the bride of an adulterous Scottish army officer, pawned her wedding ring, bought a horse, a revolver, and a camera and embarked on what would be a long, adventurous career as a travel writer.... Margaret Bald provides a taste of some of Forbes's forays into the Libyan Desert, Iraq, Afghanistan and a disintegrating, post-World War I China.... Best... is the story of her attempted pilgrimage to Mecca in August 1922. Swathed in a shapeless black abaya, she identifies herself as half Turk, half Egyptian and sets out with hundreds of Muslim pilgrims on a boat sailing across the Red Sea from Egypt to Saudi Arabia." --Joshua Hammer, *The New York Times, Sunday Book* "From the Sahara to Samarkand is the first anthology of [Rosita Forbes's] travel writings to be published. It includes selections from eight of her travel books...a thorough and enthusiastic introduction to her life and work, and a photo gallery." --Patricia Dubrava, *The Bloomsbury* "A choice addition to any literary collection focusing on travel writing." --Midwest Book From the PublisherIn the 1920s and '30s, the extraordinary Rosita Forbes explored the Libyan desert, sailed across the Red Sea to Yemen, trekked more than a thousand miles into remote Abyssinia, and traveled in Southeast Asia and China, Morocco, Turkey, Iraq, Persia, and Afghanistan. She wrote some thirty books about these and other journeys, was a widely published journalist, a documentary filmmaker, and the editor of a pioneering women's magazine. Forbes was also a Jazz Age style icon, known as much for her glamour and charm as for her splendid adventures and the engaging and insightful books she wrote about them. This is the first anthology of her travel writing.