

Wilfred Thesiger

Arabian Sands

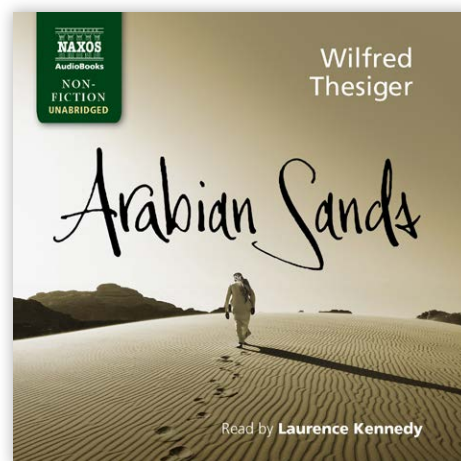
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Read by **Laurence Kennedy**

Arabian Sands is Wilfred Thesiger's stunning account of five years spent crossing the Arabian Peninsula by foot and on camels, with nomadic Bedouin tribesmen as guides. Travelling between 1945 and 1950, the British explorer treks through Yemen, The Empty Quarter, Oman and parts of the then Trucial States, crossing and re-crossing around 250,000 miles of this most inhospitable terrain. He was the first European ever to set eyes on the dunes and wadis of these deserts. Faced with constant challenges and trials beneath the punishing sun, his journey is also spiritual and enriching, as it requires the utmost courage, patience, generosity and humour. In clear and evocative prose, Thesiger documents a journey of unimaginable hardship and startling beauty, as well as a time, place and people on the cusp of change.



Laurence Kennedy's theatre credits include *Communicating Doors*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Steptoe and Son* (West End), and various productions for the Royal Exchange, Chichester Festival, Stephen Joseph and Crucible theatres. His television credits include *The Musketeers* (BBC), *Upstairs Downstairs* (BBC), *The Hour* (BBC), *Close to the Enemy* (BBC) and *Complicit* (Channel 4), and his film work includes *Hitler: The Rise Of Evil*, *Wimbledon*, *The Risen* and *The Imitation Game*.



Total running time: 12:58:58 • 11 CDs

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		1	1-1	Arabian Sands	
		2	1-2	Preface to the 1991 Reprint	
		3	1-3	Foreword	
		4	1-4	Prologue	
		5	1-5	1. Abyssinia and the Sudan	
		6	1-6	It is not surprising that I dreamt of Africa...	7:03
		7	1-7	Three years later, accompanied by David...	1:46
		8	1-8	I went up to Addis Ababa and wasted six weeks...	8:14
		9	1-9	I was restless. For three years I had been...	1:53
		10	1-10	I was posted to the Western Nuer District...	8:59
		11	2-1	The deserts in which I had travelled...	8:50
		12	2-2	2. Prelude in Dhaufar	8:02
		13	2-3	The successive civilisations whose prosperity...	10:35
		14	2-4	I stayed there for ten days.	8:21
		15	2-5	3. The Sands of Ghanim	8:42
		16	2-6	When all was ready we set off on foot.	3:08
		17	2-7	It hardly occurred to the Bedu...	12:05
		18	3-1	The Rashid and the Awamir were the tribes...	11:51
		19	3-2	We rode slowly westwards and watered...	11:55
		20	3-3	4. Secret Preparations at Salala	10:28
		21	3-4	We camped under some cliffs on a small level...	11:07
		22	3-5	Early next morning we moved down to the pool...	13:21
		23	3-6	We travelled slowly northwards...	9:06
		24	3-7	I mounted and we rode after the others.	6:54
		25	4-1	Now as I rode along, ignoring Sultan's...	11:05
		26	4-2	5. The Approach to the Empty Quarter	10:31
		27	4-3	I asked him if he had been afraid...	9:58
		28	4-4	The country grew more arid...	24
		29	4-5	During the days that I was at Mughshin...	3-7
		30	4-6	6. On the Edge of the Empty Quarter	4-1
		31	4-7	I climbed to the summit of the dune...	4-2
		32	4-8	A cold wind blew in gusts across the desert...	4-3
		33	5-1	We started again soon after sunrise.	4-4
		34	5-2	7. The First Crossing of the Empty Quarter	4-5
		35	5-3	Later we came on some grazing and stopped...	4-6
		36	5-4	After the meal we rode for two hours...	4-7
		37	5-5	Al Auf woke us again while it was still dark.	4-8
		38	5-6	8. Return to Salala	5-1
		39	6-1	Next day we had difficulty in avoiding...	5-2
		40	6-2	I then asked him about Liwa.	5-3
		41	6-3	Next morning while we were leading our camels...	5-4
		42	6-4	It was late in the afternoon when Salim...	5-5
		43	6-5	Next day Hamad and Bakhit returned...	5-6
		44	6-6	9. From Salala to Mukalla	6-1
		45	7-1	Next day we crossed the Kismim pass...	6-2
		46	7-2	We remained for three days at Habarut...	6-3

47	7-3	We descended into the valley again...	13:55	62	9-5	The evening before we reached Buraimi...	9:49
48	7-4	10. Preparations for a Second Crossing	12:42	63	9-6	Zayid, as Shakhbut's representative...	8:52
49	7-5	Muhammad pressed me to spend the night...	10:26	64	9-7	We arrived at Sharja on 10 May.	10:44
50	7-6	We left Shibam on 17 December...	12:51	65	10-1	14. A Holiday in Buraimi	10:43
51	8-1	The pursuit party had used as their battle-cry...	9:48	66	10-2	At Lahamma well we found many day-old tracks...	10:02
52	8-2	11. The Second Crossing of the Empty Quarter	10:17	67	10-3	We were hungry before we arrived at Zayid's fort...	8:11
53	8-3	We rode across gravel steppes...	10:36	68	10-4	We were astir early next morning.	10:31
54	8-4	It was a crisp morning with a gentle breeze.	10:51	69	10-5	15. The Quicksands of Umm al Samim	9:30
55	8-5	Wet, cold, and tired, we started early...	14:18	70	10-6	We travelled across interminable gravel...	10:21
56	8-6	12. From Sulaiyil to Abu Dhabi	8:57	71	10-7	16. The Wahiba Sands	14:26
57	8-7	The first afternoon we overtook two Yam...	8:28	72	11-1	Ahmad fetched Ali's camel...	10:18
58	9-1	The hatred which I encountered...	10:59	73	11-2	We camped next day within ten miles of Nazwa.	6:16
59	9-2	Later, Muhammad and Amair went off...	10:03	74	11-3	17. The Closing Door	10:11
60	9-3	Next day was fine and sunny and our spirit rose...	12:40	75	11-4	Three days later we were camped...	8:42
61	9-4	13. The Trucial Coast	10:59	76	11-5	One morning they came back before breakfast...	8:22

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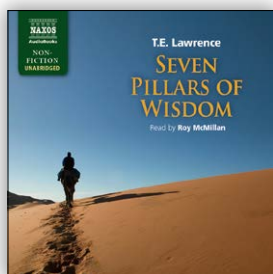
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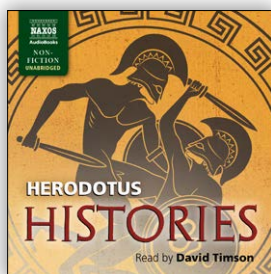
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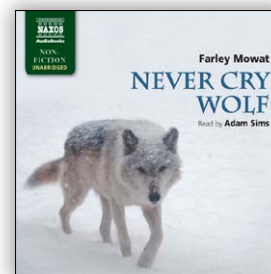
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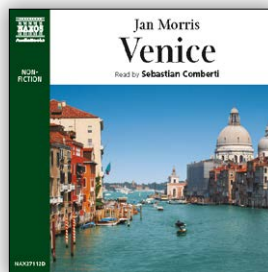
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