

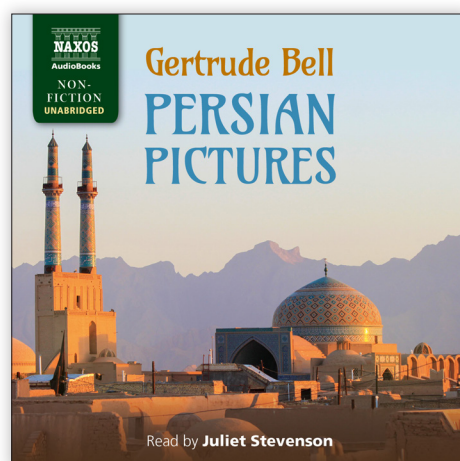
# Gertrude Bell PERSIAN PICTURES

Read by **Juliet Stevenson**

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In 1892, Gertrude Bell visited Persia (now Iran) shortly after the appointment of her uncle, Sir Frank Lascelles, as British minister in Tehran. Three years later came *Persian Pictures*, Gertrude Bell's first written work, which presents a series of vivid sketches of Persian culture and society at the time. Bell explores various cities and landscapes, and encounters local characters along the way, providing a unique perspective on Persian life and customs. While much of what is depicted in *Persian Pictures* has long since changed, Bell's writing is a valuable account of the anachronisms and inconsistencies of the dying dynasty of medieval Persia. Her depiction of Muharram – the month of mourning for Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed – and Ramadan, display a mind finely attuned to the differences and similarities between Islam and Christianity, and East and West. *Persian Pictures* is both travelogue and meditation – an elegiac and beautifully observed account of a spellbinding land.



**Total running time: 5:03:21**

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**Juliet Stevenson**, one of the UK's leading actresses, has worked extensively for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre. She received an Olivier Award for her role in *Death and the Maiden* at the Royal Court, and a number of other awards for her work in the film *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. Other film credits include *The Trial*, *Drowning by Numbers* and *Emma*. For Naxos AudioBooks she has recorded *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*, *Stories from Shakespeare*, *To the Lighthouse*, *Bliss* and *Other Stories*, *The Road Home*, *Middlemarch* and many more.

1 Persian Pictures	0:11	8 7: Dwellers in Tents	13:50	15 14: Two Palaces	18:53
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3 2: The Tower of Silence	9:04	10 9: The Treasure of the King	13:39	17 16: Requiescant in Pace	17:30
4 3: In Praise of Gardens	14:54	11 10: Sheikh Hassan	17:36	18 17: The City of King Prusias	11:24
5 4: The King of Merchants	9:36	12 11: A Persian Host	13:32	19 18: Shops and Shopkeepers	13:36
6 5: The Imam Hussein	16:34	13 12: A Stage and a Half	12:50	20 19: A Murray of the First Century	14:43
7 6: The Shadow of Death	16:32	14 13: A Bridle-Path	19:33	21 20: Travelling Companions	19:57

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