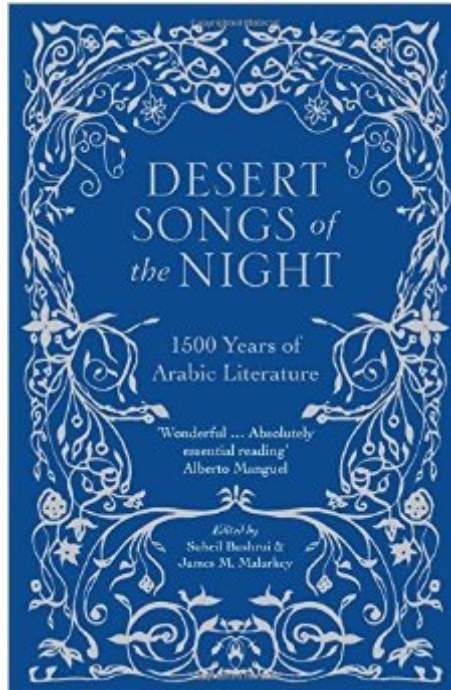


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Desert Songs Of The Night: 1500 Years Of Arabic Literature



Synopsis

A unique and extraordinary collection, *Desert Songs of the Night* presents some of the finest poetry and prose by Arab writers, from the Arab East to Andalusia, over the last fifteen hundred years. From the mystical imagery of the Qur'an and the colorful stories of *The Thousand and One Nights*, to the powerful verses of longing of Mahmoud Darwish and Nazik al-Mala'ika, this captivating collection includes translated excerpts of works by the major authors of the period, as well as by lesser-known writers of equal significance. *Desert Songs of the Night* showcases the vibrant and distinctive literary heritage of the Arabs. Beautifully produced, this is the ideal book for lovers of world literature and for those who seek an acquaintance with gems of Arab thought and expression.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A very good anthology of Arabic literature in translation, this is a revamped and somewhat re-selected version of the authors' earlier *Literary Heritage of the Arabs: An Anthology*, published in hardback in 2012. Its idea of anthologizing existing translations of Arabic literature is similar to Robert Irwin's in his anthology, *Night and Horses and the Desert: An Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature* (2002, now republished as *The Penguin Anthology of Classical Arabic Literature*), down to virtually borrowing Irwin's original title (the reference is to a famous couplet by the tenth-century poet al-Mutanabbi). But in fact the two books are complementary. Irwin's book, while containing much literature in translation, encases that literature in a very readable critical narrative that contextualizes

it, frequently providing commentary on the pieces. With no contextualizing narrative or commentary, Bushri and Malarkey are able to include many more translations, and in addition they continue to the present day. Bushrui and Malarkey are consequently much easier to dip into; Irwin, however, will leave you much better informed.

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