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V. SACKVILLE-WEST

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V. SACKVILLE-WEST : Passenger to Teheran before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Passenger to Teheran:

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gardens on her tramps through the mountainsides of Tehran. She takes the reader on as a fellow passenger and you feel at once you are in the company of an exceptional, if eccentric, traveling companion. After reading this book, you would gladly follow her anywhere

In 1926 Vita Sackville-West travelled to Iran to visit her husband, Harold Nicolson, who was serving as a diplomat in Teheran. Her route was deliberately slow-paced - she stopped in Egypt, where she sailed up the Nile to Luxor; and India, where she visited New Delhi and Agra before sailing across the Persian Gulf to Iraq and on through bandit-infested mountains to Teheran. She returned to England in an equally circuitous manner and despite travelling under dangerous circumstances, through communist Russia and Poland in the midst of revolution, her humour and sense of adventure never failed. *Passenger to Teheran* is a classic work, revealing the lesser-known side of one of the twentieth century's most luminous authors.

From Publishers Weekly Bloomsbury writer Sackville-West's lively intelligence and independence of spirit animate this glittering jewel of a book. A travelogue of her circuitous, four-month journey to Iran (then Persia) via Egypt, Aden, India and Iraq, it is notable for the author's open-mindedness and her empathy for the diverse peoples she encountered--whether potters in an Egyptian village, Arab women by the Tigris or Kurdish farmers. Teheran, where her husband Harold Nicolson was stationed as a British diplomat, seemed "a squalid city of bad roads, rubbish heaps and pariah dogs," yet the Persia she conjures up is full of life for those who unnecessary. it's implied. aa seek it. Here is Sackville-West the adventurer, philosopher of travel just 'philosopher', or 'on travel'? aa/leave as is.gs , humorist, word-painter or 'word smith'?aa/leave as is.gs and political satirist (of Iran under the shahs, and of the fledging Soviet Union, glimpsed on her return trek). Originally published in 1926 and long out of print, this memoir includes 65 photographs and a new introduction in which Nigel Nicolson, the author's son, adds key personal details omitted by his mother or call her 'Sackville-West'.aa . Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Sixty-five years ago, Sackville-West traveled by train, ship, and motorcar from London to Persia to visit her diplomat husband Harold Nicolson. A member of the literary Bloomsbury Group and close friend of Virginia Woolf, Sackville-West is described in the introduction by her son Nigel as "a born traveller, with that rare capacity to love equally" her home and the place she visits. She wrote as she traveled, so the narrative imparts her sense of wonder. Her writing shows deep reflection and brilliant style. This work, while not one of her best, is a lyrical period piece which contains passages of unquestionable beauty about places like Isfahan and Baghdad. There are 65 photographs from the author's private library. For travel or academic libraries who do not own the first edition (1926. o.p.).-Susan Fifer Canby, National Geographic Soc . Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. *She pursues the good, the true and the beautiful with relentless tenacity and a charming style.*--New York Times "Passenger to Teheran is utterly different from a returned traveller's lecture... It gives pleasure because it describes pleasure, illuminated by what Winifred Holtby called 'the lucid tranquility of her lovely prose.' She could describe a scene, a person, an emotion with enviable spontaneity, plunging her hands into the treasury of the English language as greedily as into the jewel-chests of the Shah. It is a glittering book."--Nigel Nicolson, in his introduction to *Passenger to Teheran* "It's awfully good... I didn't know the extent of your subtleties. The whole book is full of nooks and crannies, the very intimate things one says in print."--Virginia Woolf, in a letter to Vita Sackville-West *.. . we are told what Miss Sackville-West saw in Persia, but always with such an artistic touch, such an individual style, that it is the traveller who mostly holds our attention.*--Daily Telegraph *A glittering jewel of a book.*--Publishers Weekly *Brilliant style.. . a lyrical period piece which contains passages of unquestionable beauty.*--Library Journal