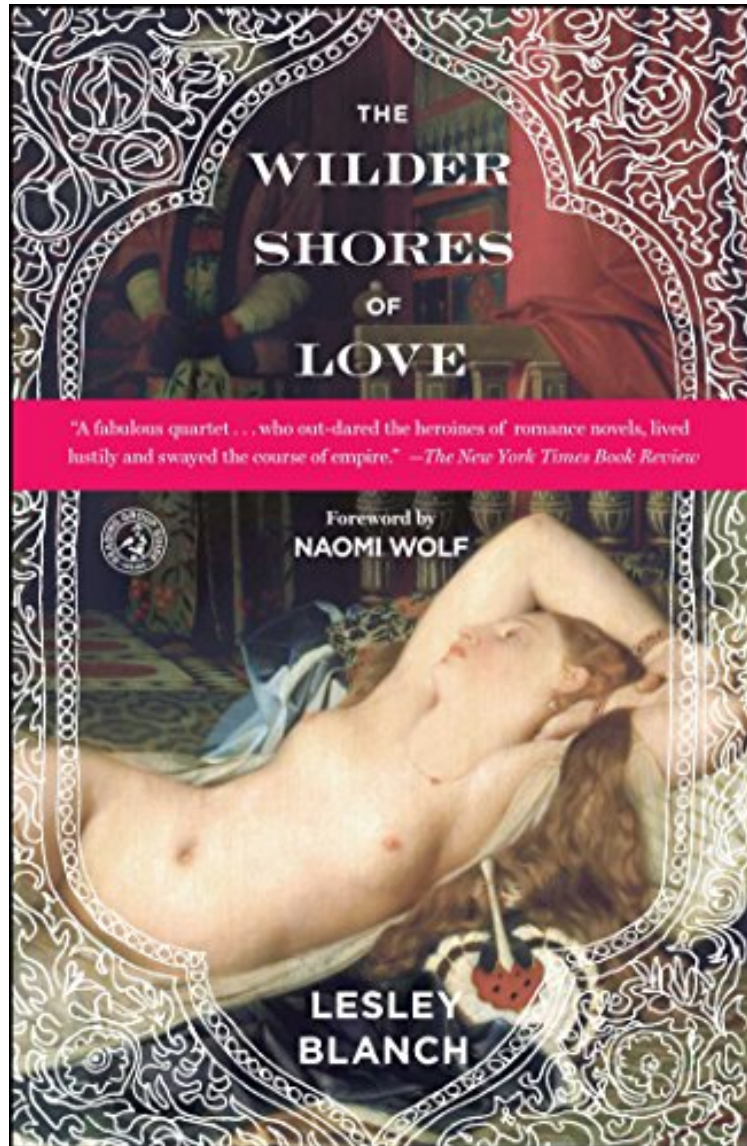


(Download free pdf) The Wilder Shores of Love

The Wilder Shores of Love

Lesley Blanch

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#771093 in Books Simon n Schuster 2010-10-26 2010-10-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .69 #File Name: 1439197342368 pages | File size: 66.Mb

Lesley Blanch : The Wilder Shores of Love before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wilder Shores of Love:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Poor editing and a less-than-interesting take on a brilliant non-conventional lifeBy Veronica LescayOn the Wilder Shores of Love is a collection of autobiographical stories written by Lesley Blanch about her childhood, marriage, working life in London followed by living abroad throughout Europe and the US as a wife to a diplomat-novelist, and finally a brief section on her impressions of travels in Mexico,

Afghanistan, Turkey, and Iran. Because Blanch led an unquestionably interesting life, I really wanted to love this book. However, I give it only 3 stars for a number of reasons. First of all, I think the editing is poor. At many points it feels like you are reading someone's diary, and the stories jump all over the place with no order. I think there is too much included on her childhood, yet so little on interesting points of her life, like when she became pregnant by an Italian boy at 17, gave birth, and gave her daughter up for adoption 2 years later - all this was written in 2 paragraphs as a footnote. I also looked forward to reading about her travels throughout Russia, the Balkans, and the Middle East, since she was so passionate about these regions. Only the last 30 pages or so of the 407 pages described thoroughly her travels. Much of the book is a description of her life as an ex-pat in European capitals and the US, but by that I mean she mentions a lot of names that are unfamiliar to modern readers. "She met so and so, who knew so and so, and they had a lovely house, etc." Finally, I didn't take a liking to Blanch because I found her to be incredibly materialistic and too concerned with fame. For example, there is a whole chapter devoted to making a case for heavy traveling, for which Blanch recommends bringing 8 or 9 suitcases on your travels to be comfortable at all times. So overall, I think it's an interesting enough book to warrant a read if you are interested in Blanch's life in particular, or that period. If you are interested in courageous voyages, travels in Russia or the Middle East, or simply looking for an engrossing tale of an unconventional woman, I recommend looking elsewhere.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The memoir, *On the Wilder Shores of Love* - by Lesley Blanch and edited by Georgia de Chamberet. A remarkable memoir resulting from the efforts of Lesley Blanch and her goddaughter, Georgia de Chamberet, who edited the book! Blanch lived an extraordinary and full life, born in 1904 and dying 103 years later in 2007. She authored several non-fictional books, the best known being "The Wilder Shores of Love" in 1954. Blanch was married to Romain Gary, twice winner of the Prix Goncourt. Part One - Scenes from Childhood contains brilliantly written portions of her earliest experiences and her education. Part Two - Scenes from the Home Front and Part Three - Scenes from a Marriage gave vivid accounts of the years between the world wars and Blanch's life with Romain Gary. Lesley Blanch died before finishing and perfecting her memoir, but Georgia de Chamberet has provided informative and honest text to those parts of the text that require explanation. The book is handsomely published in hardcover with illustrations and photographs that are relevant to the story of Lesley Blanch. Towards the end of the book in a chapter called "Junking" she describes her attraction to items she collected: "... things have always seemed, if not alive in our sense of the word, certainly possessed of some inner nature or presence, some remote derivation of the individual soul." The theme continues with commentary on children and their toys and the adult attraction to collected items that are never just "inanimate." In addition to the collection of material possessions, her travel commentaries are striking and fresh particularly since she experienced Afghanistan, Russia, and various countries in the Middle East when the "going was still good." In short, this book is a real treasure, a book to return to from time to time.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I'm probably over-rating it a little with three stars because ... By CyberCrone. I'm probably over-rating it a little with three stars because today I gave up on this book, not even halfway through. The life histories of the women profiled are enthralling, but Blanch is something of a scattershot writer; this irritated me because I sometimes had trouble keeping things straight. She is exuberant in her descriptions and interpretations of her subject's motivations but almost never gives solid reasons for those interpretations. I suspect they are based on other people's writings but also suspect they are sometimes fanciful, and I don't want the writer's fantasies in a basically biographical work. But I'm almost always against the tide in my view of popular works so consider this a crank's point of view.

Originally published in 1954, *The Wilder Shores of Love* is the classic biography of four nineteenth-century European women who leave behind the industrialized west for Arabia in search of romance and fulfillment. Hailed by *The Daily Telegraph* as "enthralling to read," Lesley Blanch's first book tells the story of Isabel Burton, the wife and traveling companion of the explorer Richard Burton; Jane Digby, who exchanged European society for an adventure in loving; Aime Dubucq de Rivery, a Frenchwoman captured by pirates who became a member of the Turkish sultans harem; and Isabelle Eberhardt, a Swiss woman who dressed as a man and lived among the Arabs of Algeria.

Love, wanderlust, faraway places all that Romance implies make up this delicious book. . . . Ideal reading. *Washington Post Book World* Over the years, many full-length biographies of [these] four heroines have been published. . . . But Lesley Blanch's short, imaginative, and highly poetic account of their lives and personalities remains unsurpassed. *The Independent (London)* An exuberantly colorful book. *Orville Prescott, The New York Times* About the Author Lesley Blanch was a distinguished writer, painter, drama critic, and *Vogue* editor. The author of twelve books, including *Pierre Loti* and *The Sabres of Paradise*, she died in 2007. To learn more about Lesley, visit her website at www.lesleyblanch.com.