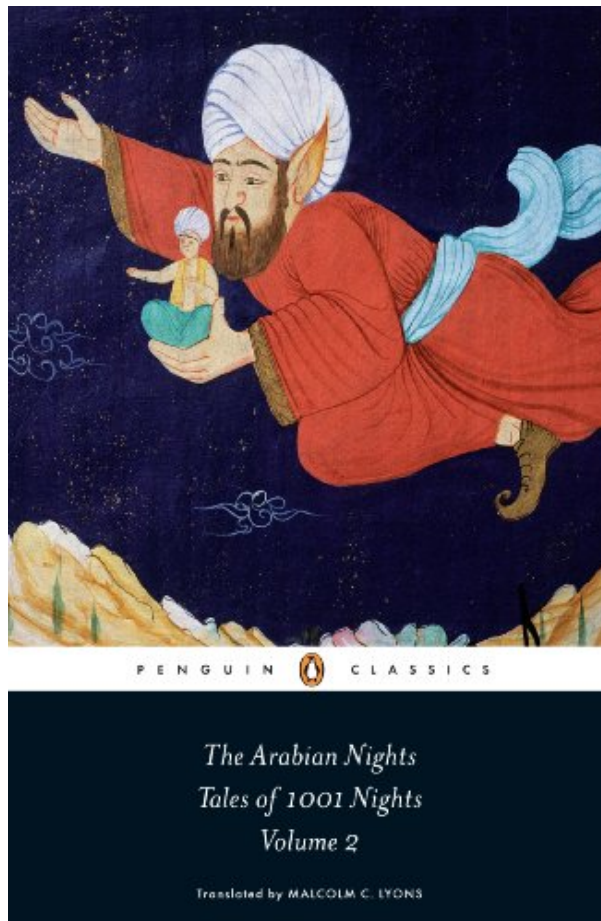


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*The Arabian Nights*  
*Tales of 1001 Nights*  
*Volume 2*

Translated by MALCOLM C. LYONS

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Every night for three years the vengeful King Shahriyar sleeps with a different virgin, executing her next morning. To end this brutal pattern and to save her own life, the vizier's daughter, Shahrazad, begins to tell the king tales of adventure, love, riches and wonder - tales of mystical lands peopled with princes and hunchbacks, the Angel of Death and magical spirits, tales of the voyages of Sindbad, of Ali Baba's outwitting a band of forty thieves and of jinnis trapped in rings and in lamps. The sequence of stories will last 1,001 nights.

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"I Found It" -- the Best Arabian Night's Set Available!

By Light

I have been searching for a "Complete" 1001 Night Tales or The Arabian Nights for some years and have read the Josepah Campbell edited version, Payne, Burton, Scott, Haddawy versions... but this is my Favorite because a) it includes all the Stories found in the French Edition by Galland and b) the Complete Tales that are found in the extensive versions or translations for the most part.

I am Grateful to the Lyons for doing all this Work (husband & wife), and for making it available to us. This is the Edition I would use for high school, college as well as "fun" Reading. I perhaps would also use it, given that I am the moderator, with teenagers or children who are rather bright.

I have only Positive things to say and I am Grateful it is available in 3 Volumes by Penguin Books for this outstanding price. Again, I have been researching this Material for some time and now I can finally say there is a Complete Set available that is Modern, "Complete", easy to read and understand, contains the Poems, and Flows nicely with every Night accounted for until It reaches 1001 Nights! Beautiful!

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Lyons translation, vol. 2 of 3

By Richard L Chicago

This is volume two of an excellent translation by Malcolm Lyons of the full thousand-and-one-night Arabic manuscript, compiled in Egypt and known in the West as the Macnaghten edition or Calcutta II. All three volumes have introductory essays by Robert Irwin, author of *The Arabian Nights - A Companion* (also a very interesting and accessible must-have for readers of the *Arabian Nights*). Irwin's volume two essay provides an entertaining and informative overview of the literary history of the *Arabian Nights*, and its succinct ten pages would be useful, for instance, in a high school or college course on this classic frame story. Volume two includes nights 295 to 719. Fans of Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1974 film version, "Il fiore delle mille e una notte," will find in volume two a text version of his movie's frame story in the form of "'Ali Shar and Zumurrud" (Pasolini does not use the story of Shahrazad as his frame, and changes the name and character of 'Ali to an unsophisticated boy, Nureddin, whom Zumurrud must "educate.") The first two nested tales of the movie, read to Nureddin by Zumurrud, also can be found in written form in volume two as "Harun al-Rashid and the Lady Zubaida in the pool," and "Abu Nuwas and the three boys." (Scholars of Swahili literature will find several Abu Nuwas stories in volume two, as well the written version of Steere's 1869 "Hekaya ya Mohammadi Mtepetevu" from *Swahili Tales As Told By Natives of Zanzibar*. In volume two, it is "Abu Muhammad the sluggard," from nights 299 to 305.) The stories of "The slave girl

Tawaddud," "Sinbad the sailor" (including an alternate ending), "The City of Brass," and "Dalila the wily" are also in volume two. The translation of the alternative version of Sinbad's seventh voyage, "Sinbad and the elephant graveyard," is provided by Ursula Lyons, from the French text by Antoine Galland. Her fine translations of Galland's "orphan stories" (i.e., ones not included in the Egyptian manuscript, but offered in his *Les Mille et une nuits*)--"The story of Ali Baba and the forty thieves" and "The story of Aladdin, or The Magic Lamp"--can be found in volumes one and three respectively.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

The rapture continues

By krebsman

I feel that I am having one of the great reading experiences of my life with this new translation of THE ARABIAN NIGHTS. Volume I was mind-blowing with its kaleidoscopic variety and Volume II is even more so. There is more variation in both story structure and subject matter. One of the more interestingly structured stories tells of a king's concubine who tries to seduce the king's son. When he rebuffs her, she goes to his father and accuses him of trying to seduce her and demands that he be beheaded. The king is set to do it, but then a vizier comes forth and tells a story about the wiles of women and why the king should not believe her. The king decides against executing his son. Then the next day the disappointed concubine returns begging the king to reconsider, and tells a story to illustrate the wiles of men which convinces the king to kill his son. Then a second vizier steps forward and tells a story about the wiles of women and the king changes his mind again. And so it goes through seven viziers until the king is saved at the last minute from making a terrible mistake. Many of the stories in this volume deal with con artists and tricksters. Some of them made me really uncomfortable when it looked as though injustice would prevail. Not all the stories have happy endings. (Dalila the Trickster, who is the vilest con artist in the book, just made me angry!) This volume is even sexier than the first volume and in places gets fairly graphic, with jokes about penis size and egg white used as a substitute for another substance. As in volume I, the women tend to be lusty and the men moon over unattainable beauties. One lusty woman has a secret love affair with a bear! Both lesbianism and male homosexuality are depicted. One homosexual story is a comic tale of a young man eluding the amorous advances of an older man and another is the only positive depiction of homosexuality in the book. In that story a young man discovers that his brother is having an affair with a neighbor when he finds them asleep together, but seeing that his brother is happy, he decides to keep mum about it. One of the stories is basically an adolescent gross-out joke featuring pus and vomit. Several stories go beyond fantasy into the surreal, such as the one that features an epic battle between apes and giant ants. The same saga features a talking female snake that is rather frightening, but ends up being a very noble character. This volume contains the saga of Sinbad (two different versions), which I did not find nearly as interesting as some of the other stories. However, there is one section (between about a third and halfway through the book) that I found excruciating. It's about a young woman who is engaged in a battle of wits with multiple scholars on such subjects as anatomy and Islamic religion. Maybe that was fascinating stuff for a medieval Muslim, but for this 21st Century non-Muslim, it was a big bore. But once I got past the halfway point in the book, I zoomed through the rest of it. I recommend just scanning this section, even though I did not. This is a great work of literature in which I found fragments that reminded me of Shakespeare, The Bible, Grimm, Homer, and Edgar Rice Burroughs. I wish I had read it a long time ago and I look forward to the final volume. Five stars despite the slow section.

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