



The Oblivion Seekers

By Isabelle Eberhardt

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The Oblivion Seekers By Isabelle Eberhardt

Stories and journal notes by an extraordinary young woman—adventurer and traveler, Arabic scholar, Sufi mystic and adept of the Djillala cult.

"Not long before her death Isabelle Eberhardt wrote: "No one ever lived more from day to day or was more dependent upon chance. It is the inescapable chain of events that has brought me to this point, rather than I who have caused these things to happen." Her life seems haphazard, at the mercy of caprice, but her writings prove otherwise. She did not make decisions; she was impelled to take action. Her nature combined an extraordinary singleness of purpose and an equally powerful nostalgia for the unattainable." —Paul Bowles, preface.

"One of the strangest human documents that a woman has given the world."
—Cecily Mackworth, *I Came Out of France*

Isabelle Eberhardt (1877-1904) was an explorer who lived and traveled extensively throughout North Africa. She wrote of her travels in numerous books and French newspapers, including *Nouvelles Algériennes* [Algerian News] (1905), *Dans l'Ombre Chaude de l'Islam* [In the Hot Shade of Islam] (1906), and *Les journaliers* [The Day Laborers] (1922).

Paul Bowles has taped and translated numerous strange legends and lively stories recounted by Mrabet: *Love with a Few Hairs* (novel), *The Lemon* (novel), *The Boy Who Set Fire* (stories), *Harmless Poisons*, *Blameless Sins* (stories), *The Beach Café & Look & Move On* (autobiography), and *The Big Mirror* (novella).

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Isabelle Eberhardt was an unusual woman, and we're fortunate to glimpse her unique meld of European angst and Algerian verve. We're equally lucky for Paul Bowles's sympathetic, robust biography that precedes Eberhardt's 13 short stories. Born in Switzerland in 1877 and dead by 1904 in Algeria, Eberhardt spent her childhood dressed as a boy and her short adulthood living a journalist's life in Africa, full of luck and illness, passion and melancholy. From that intricate mix, her stories set in the dusty heat of Algerian villages breathe and sigh and radiate the culture and conflicts of her chosen home.

Review

"From the narrative introduction through the cinematic scenes of desert tribes, Eberhardt proves herself a masterfully evocative writer."

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Cheryl Fenske:

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