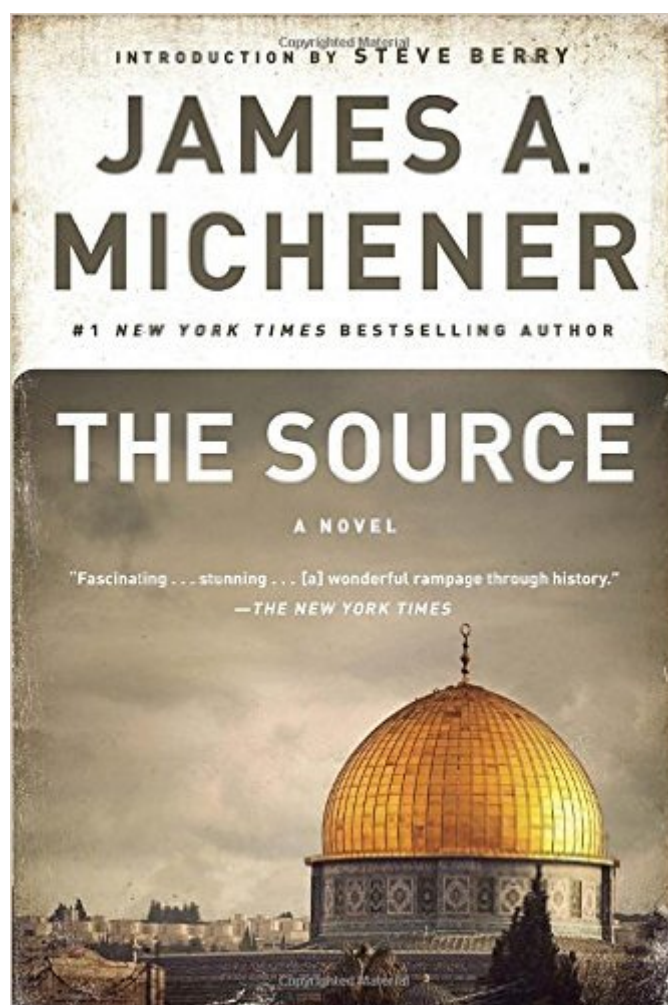


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The Source: A Novel



Synopsis

In his signature style of grand storytelling, James A. Michener transports us back thousands of years to the Holy Land. Through the discoveries of modern archaeologists excavating the site of Tell Makor, Michener vividly re-creates life in an ancient city and traces the profound history of the Jewish peopleâfrom the persecution of the early Hebrews, the rise of Christianity, and the Crusades to the founding of Israel and the modern conflict in the Middle East. An epic tale of love, strength, and faith, *The Source* is a richly written saga that encompasses the history of Western civilization and the great religious and cultural ideas that have shaped our world. **Â Praise for *The Source*** **Â** *âFascinating . . . stunning . . . [a] wonderful rampage through history . . . Biblical history, as seen through the eyes of a professor who is puzzled, appalled, delighted, enriched and impoverished by the spectacle of a land where all men are archeologists.â* **â** *âThe New York Times* **Â** *âA sweeping [novel] filled with excitementâ* *âpagan ritual, the clash of armies, ancient and modern: the evolving drama of manâs faith.â* **â** *âThe Philadelphia Inquirer* **Â** *âMagnificent . . . a superlative piece of writing both in scope and technique . . . one of the great books of this generation.â* **â** *âSan Francisco Call Bulletin*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michener, James A., *Caravans* (Ballantine Books, United States, 1963). 438. 1 map. 1 Note to Reader. 0-449-21380-3. *Caravans* is the story of an American woman, Ellen Jaspar, lost in Afghanistan after marrying an Afghan engineer. The novel is told through the cooperation of American officials and Afghani leaders to find the missing woman at the pressure of a U.S. Senator.

Michener touches upon various aspects of Afghanistan, including women's rights, religious fanaticism, foreign perceptions, and the character of the Afghani people. James A. Michener found his inspiration for the novel in his personal experiences and travels through Afghanistan. He in fact met many European women who struggled for freedom from the confines of their marriage and Afghanistan. Michener is extremely well-traveled in the region, and furthermore has much diplomatic expertise lending to credible portrayals of Afghani leaders and people in the novel. Hence, his portrayal of the many facets of Afghani culture and politics are credible and well-researched. The motive of Michener in writing this novel seems unclear at times, as it's adventure-style narrative can obscure the reader's vision of it as more than just a story. Yet, there is some hint of the author's desire to enlighten the world on the deeper character of Afghanistan. Michener strives to shed light on such a perplexing people and culture, that more often than not are judged solely by the negative qualities that appear on the surface (i.e. fanatical mullahs and repressed women). And, by incorporating both Afghani and foreign perceptions of Afghani people and culture continuously throughout the novel, Michener achieves this goal.

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