Ida Pfeiffer was an Austrian traveler and popular travel book author. One of the first female explorers, she was a member of geographical societies of both Berlin and Paris. Pfeiffer travelled alone in an era when women seldom traveled. In 1842 she went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, then continued on to Egypt and Italy. Understanding the difficulties a woman would face travelling alone and on a budget, she made a will before she left. Upon her return she wrote this book, and used the proceeds to finance her next trip – six months in Iceland.

Total running time: 11:04:28

Read by Sibella Denton

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Illustration of the Dead Sea from the first English edition