

# THE ENGLISH PATIENT

'Ondaatje's novel about love and confusion set at the end of the Second World War follows a small group of shell-shocked characters. In descriptive prose of spectacular beauty, he invents a desert world which is both physical and imaginative. This is one of the few truly great post-war novels' Eileen Battersby, Irish Times' Magnificent... All the allure of early 20th Century desert exploration is contained in Ondaatje's beautiful, spare narrative... A wise and graceful book about history itself,...



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### The English Patient

Author	Michael Ondaatje
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## Peek Inside the Book

We die containing a richness of lovers and tribes, tastes we have swallowed, bodies we have plunged into and swum up as if rivers of wisdom, characters we have climbed into as if trees, fears we have hidden in as if caves. I wish for all this to be marked on my body when I am dead. I believe in such cartography - to be marked by nature, not just...

What he would say, he cannot say to this woman whose openness is like a wound, whose youth is not mortal yet. He cannot alter what he loves most in her, her lack of compromise, where the romance of the poems she loves still sits with ease in the real world. Outside these qualities he knows there is no order in the world. Michael...

## Reader's Opinions

On the floating shelf of Books That Have Changed My Life, one will find The English Patient. Michael Ondaatje repeats a line (it appears on pages 112 and 113 of my edition) that I want to wrap myself up in and think about, write about, dream about, cry over, taste, drink in:...