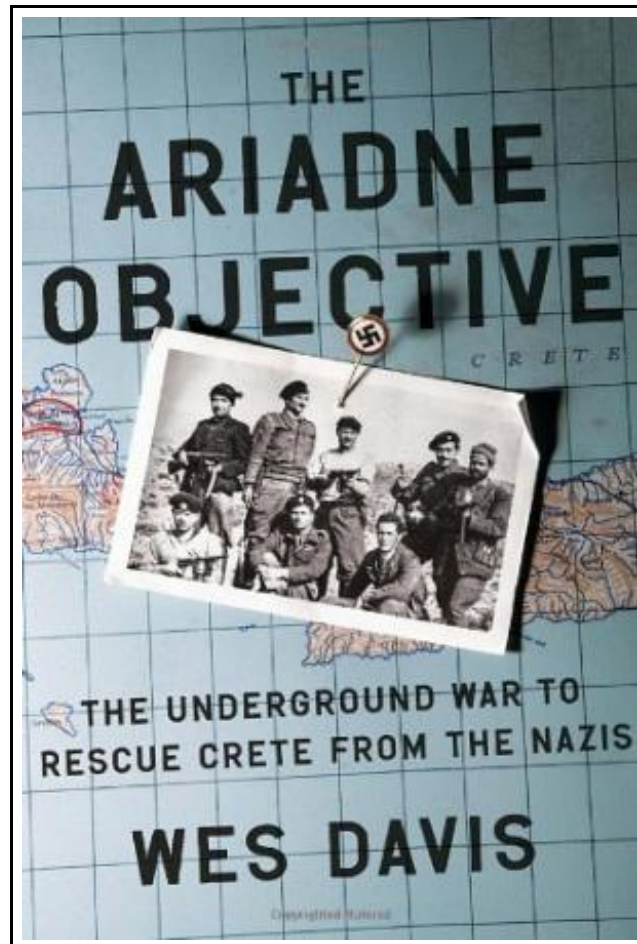


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THE ARIADNE OBJECTIVE: THE UNDERGROUND WAR TO RESCUE CRETE FROM THE NAZIS



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Crown. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. In the bleakest years of World War II, when it appeared that nothing could slow the German army, Hitler set his sights on the Mediterranean island of Crete as a staging ground for domination of the Middle East; the Nazi occupation force, however, had not counted on an eccentric band of British intelligence officers who would wage a secret war of audacious sabotage operations. Wes Davis grippingly chronicles these amateur soldiers—scholars, archaeologists, writers—who found themselves serving as spies in Crete because, as one of them put it, they had made "the obsolete choice of Greek at school." Teamed with Cretan partisans, Patrick Leigh Fermor, John Pendlebury, Xan Fielding, Sandy Rendel, and several other "gentleman spies" disrupted Nazi maneuvers and launched a highly risky plot to abduct the island's German commander. "A ripping yarn, and Wes Davis is the perfect person to spin it. Ariadne will appeal to fans of Ben Macintyre's books like *Double Cross* and *Operation Mincemeat* and, in fact, to anyone who enjoys a good story well told. This book kept me up well past my bedtime: I couldn't go to sleep until I finished it." Ben Yagoda "The Nazi invasion of Crete in 1941, spearheaded by an innovative airborne assault, was rapid, efficient, and brutal; the subsequent Cretan resistance was prolonged, vicious, and successful in that it tied down large numbers of German troops. The brunt of the resistance fighting fell upon Cretan partisans and civilians, many of whom were massacred in Nazi reprisal raids. Also playing an important role was a group of amateur British adventurers, including classical scholars, archaeologists, and writers motivated by streaks of romanticism. They were led by Patrick Leigh Fermor, who had wandered extensively across the eastern Mediterranean as a teenager. Aided by their ability to...



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