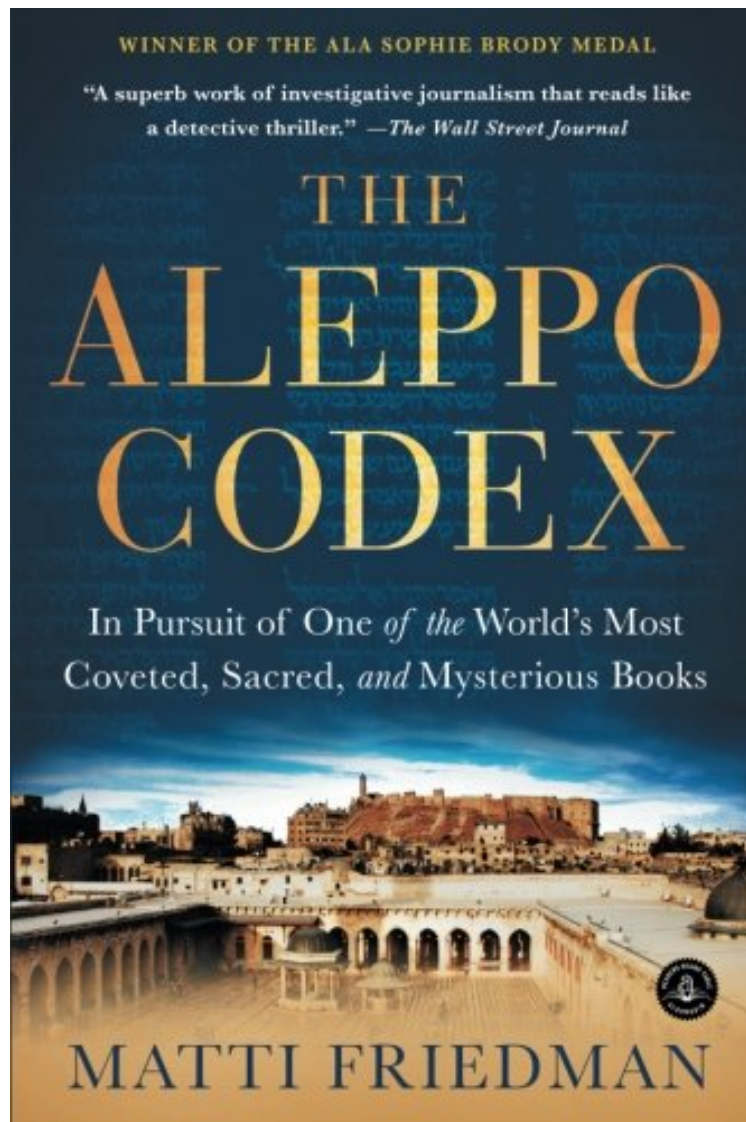


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## The Aleppo Codex: In Pursuit of One of the Worlds Most Coveted, Sacred, and Mysterious Books

*Matti Friedman*

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**Matti Friedman : The Aleppo Codex: In Pursuit of One of the Worlds Most Coveted, Sacred, and Mysterious Books** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Aleppo Codex: In Pursuit of One of the Worlds Most Coveted, Sacred, and Mysterious Books:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating work!By Charlottekrn BookfairJournalist and author,

Matti Friedman details the history and the journey of one of the greatest books in Jewish Biblical Literature. The Codex, known as the Aram-Tzova, and later, the Aleppo Crown, originated in Tiberius in 930CE. Scholars painstakingly copied in an exact and precise replication, each and every letter, each and every vowel, and each and every word of the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible. The express purpose of the Codex was to insure that Jews in the Diaspora would have only one exact Bible for every Jewish community throughout the world, as singularity and unification was ultimately the only possibility for the survival of Judaism. The Codex, meant to be a reference guide, issued as a bound book rather than a rolled scroll. Mattie Friedmans non-fiction work offers a wealth of information on Jewish history, and though slows in parts, bogged down in detail, ultimately brings to light the fate of the treasured and beloved, priceless Crown of Aleppo. 22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, But Not Quite Enough Material for a Book By Gary L. Misch Plus -1. The Aleppo Codex, including its ancient and modern history, is worth reading about. You will learn more about it here than you will in Wikipedia, c.2. The discussion of the Israeli government's treatment of the sacred texts of North African and Arabian Jewish communities that were resettled in Israel is a sidelight, but interesting. It's also illustrative of the attitude of the secular Jews who founded modern Israel. They placed the culture of these ancient communities in museums, while pushing their people into the modern socialist framework. Minus - There simply isn't enough here for a book length piece. Too much conjecture, both on the part of the author and many of the interviewees. Overall, I'm glad the author took the time to do the leg work. I bought the Kindle version. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating search for the truth about the Aleppo Codex By History Hannah This book had many twists and turns in the author's dogged determination to find out what really happened to this sacred book. Had this not been labeled non-fiction, I would have thought it was fiction. This author takes the reader on his journey to discover the truth. His conclusion as to what happened is unexpected, yet makes sense.

Winner of the 2014 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature A thousand years ago, the most perfect copy of the Hebrew Bible was written. It was kept safe through one upheaval after another in the Middle East, and by the 1940s it was housed in a dark grotto in Aleppo, Syria, and had become known around the world as the Aleppo Codex. Journalist Matti Friedman's true-life detective story traces how this precious manuscript was smuggled from its hiding place in Syria into the newly founded state of Israel and how and why many of its most sacred and valuable pages went missing. It's a tale that involves grizzled secret agents, pious clergymen, shrewd antiquities collectors, and highly placed national figures who, as it turns out, would do anything to get their hands on an ancient, decaying book. What it reveals are uncomfortable truths about greed, state cover-ups, and the fascinating role of historical treasures in creating a national identity.

From Booklist \*Starred\* Written in the tenth century, the Aleppo Codex is the most accurate copy of the Hebrew Bible. Named for the Syrian city in which it was kept, the codex is also known as the Crown of Aleppo and was said to protect those who cared for it and curse those who defiled it. Friedman, a Jerusalem journalist, came across part of the Crown in a museum and decided he wanted to write about it. In doing so, he opened a treasure box of history, mystery, conspiracy, and convolutions that would do any biblical thriller proud. There are several intriguing strands in play here. First, there is the history of a vibrant Syrian community, under siege when Israel became a state. Add a cast of academics, spys, merchants, refugees, and bureaucrats, high and low, whose roles in getting the Crown out of Syria and into Israel loop and reloop throughout the narrative. Then there is the ever-evolving topic of the underground market for antiquities, fascinating in itself, but Friedman shows us, in addition, just how much is lost when the very rich purchase rarities and remove them from the public eye. The time line sometimes gets confusing, and so do the players (though an introductory cast list helps), but Friedman has done a remarkable job finding sources and digging through archives of getting the Crown's fascinating story out of the shadows and into the light. In the process, he has become the latest in the long line of the Crown's protectors. --Ilene Cooper Booklists Top 10 Religion and Spirituality Books A superb work of investigative journalism that reads like a detective thriller. The Wall Street Journal Friedman's clear writing and dogged pursuit of some otherwise overlooked assumptions read more like a detective novel than history . . . Friedman has written an important account in accessible, gripping prose. The Christian Science Monitor A thrilling, step-by-step quest to discover what really happened to Judaism's most important book . . . Many of [The Aleppo Codex's] most astute and well-earned revelations are also its biggest surprises. The Boston Globe The Aleppo Codex builds to a moral crescendo more impressive than the climactic fight scene in any thriller. Salon Friedman creates a riveting story, one that the reader will have a hard time putting down. The Advocate Thrilling . . . a real-life National Treasure that reads like fantastical fiction. CultureMob [Friedman] opened a treasure box of history, mystery, conspiracy, and convolutions that would do any biblical thriller proud . . . Friedman has done a remarkable job finding sources and digging through archives of getting the Crown's fascinating story out of the shadows and into the light. In the process, he has become the latest in the long line of the Crown's protectors. Booklist, starred review Sharply etched . . . A carefully paced narrative of purloined Judaica. Kirkus s Friedman's account of how the Codex was taken from Syria

in the 1940s, later to resurface in Jerusalem, although no longer