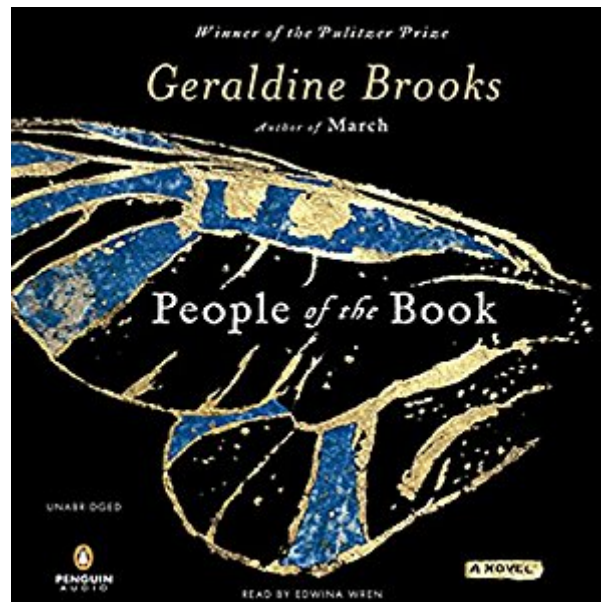




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# People Of The Book



## Synopsis

The bestselling novel that follows a rare manuscript through centuries of exile and war, from the author of *The Secret Chord* and *March*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* is a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity by an acclaimed and beloved author. Called "a tour de force" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, this ambitious, electrifying work traces the harrowing journey of the famed *Sarajevo Haggadah*, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in fifteenth-century Spain. When it falls to Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, to conserve this priceless work, the series of tiny artifacts she discovers in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—only begin to unlock its deep mysteries and unexpectedly plunges Hanna into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultra-nationalist fanatics. From the Trade Paperback edition. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 58 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 28, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B001R1VDFM

Best Sellers Rank: #111 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Jewish  
#138 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Jewish #452  
in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction

## Customer Reviews

The chronology of this book is somewhat hard to follow. I actually had to review the book and read certain parts a second time to get a full understanding of what was going on. Almost too many stories in this one novel! It might have been helpful to read the "Afterword" first!! Yet, the writing is very good, and Brooks' imagination is wonderful. I learned much about the real *Sarajevo Haggadah*, and I learned much about the history of Judaism inter-twined with Islam in Europe over the last centuries.. I found this a worthwhile read. This is the first Brooks' novel I have read.

This book is such a glowing example of words making pictures. I had read this book and suggested it to my book club. One of the ladies said she had read it already. I responded, "Didn't you love the illustrations?" "There weren't any illustrations in my book!" I was so surprised by her answer than I decided to read it again. There were only vivid descriptions in the book. I only had illustrations in my mind!"

I found the details of book restoration to be very interesting. As a librarian, it boggles my mind that a 500 year old book even exists! Using physical clues within the book to reveal its history was an engaging way to tell its history in a non-linear fashion. As is typical in her novels, however, the ending was too abrupt, as if the editor had said "times up, pencils down." Over all, a very good read.

The story is quite complex made even more so by the switches between narrators and time periods. However, the underlying history of a Jewish book which escaped burning during the Inquisition, the exile of the Jews from Spain, and other historical events, including Hitler, the Holocaust, and others which should have spelled the end for the book. The key was the passion of various unrelated persons who risked their lives to save it. The novel is based on a true incident however, the individual vignettes were creative fiction invented to answer the unanswerable question of how it could have happened. It held my attention and always seemed to be rooted in real people. I've been interested in history and especially the history of the Jews during their diaspora. I think anyone with a similar interest will find the book provides details of that period which are less available than books that concentrate on World War II. I highly recommend it. Its worth the sometimes struggle of trying to keep up with the back and forth of time and place.

Very well written and interesting story about an actual book, the Sarajevo Haggadah. An Australian book conservator is asked to examine the book and finds tiny clues that hint about the book's passage through time and different owners. Alternating chapters reveal the secrets of the book and how these artifacts wound up in it.

This is an ambitious work, tracing the history of a beautiful sacred Jewish text, recovered in the ruins of Sarajevo in 1996 and restored through the careful craftsmanship of a book restorer named Hanna. During her work, she notes certain clues to its history: a wine stain, a white hair, an insect wing, saltwater. From flashbacks, we learn the stories of the individuals who handled the text and

ensured its unlikely survival - from Bosnia during World War II, to Vienna in 1894, Venice in 1609, the Inquisition of 1492, back to its creation in Seville in 1480. Along the way, we also learn Hanna's story. I agree with some other reviewers that the relationship between Hanna and her mother strained credulity at times, but the overall novel is so compelling that even that minor flaw did not undermine my appreciation of it.

Interesting fictionalized tale of the Sarajevo Haggadah. Many people who were responsible for preserving the book or who had an impact on it tell their tales in the first person. The violence and any sexual content included in the book were to depict the reality of the times that the people of the book lived in.

Fascinating read, as the author deftly moves the story through generations and locales, always returning to the protagonist who is trying to unravel the mystery of the book's origin. Creatively mastered and very well written, in fact gut-wrenching in parts where anti-Semitism is described. Truly a worthwhile read.

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