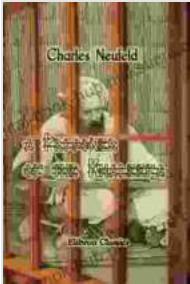


# Prisoner of the Khaleefa: Twelve Years Captivity at Omdurman (Elibron Classics)



## A Prisoner of the Khaleefa; Twelve Years' Captivity at Omdurman. (Elibron Classics) by Charles Neufeld

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.1 out of 5

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## By Rudolf Slatin

### Published by Elibron Classics, 1896

In 1883, Rudolf Slatin, a young Austrian officer, was captured by the Mahdist forces in Sudan. He was taken to Omdurman, the Mahdi's capital, and held prisoner for twelve years. During his captivity, Slatin witnessed the rise and fall of the Mahdist state, and he played a key role in the British reconquest of Sudan.

*Prisoner of the Khaleefa* is Slatin's gripping account of his experiences in Sudan. It is a classic work of travel literature and a valuable historical document.

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## **Chapter 1: My Capture**

In 1883, I was serving as an officer in the Egyptian army in Sudan. The Mahdist War had broken out the previous year, and the Mahdist forces were rapidly gaining ground. I was captured by the Mahdists during a battle at El Obeid.

I was taken to Omdurman, the Mahdi's capital, and thrown into prison. I was kept in chains for several months, and I was subjected to regular beatings. However, I was eventually released, and I was allowed to live in Omdurman under the protection of the Khalifa.

## **Chapter 2: Omdurman**

Omdurman was a large and bustling city. It was home to a diverse population of Arabs, Nubians, and Sudanese. The city was dominated by the Mahdi's palace, which was a large and imposing building. The palace was surrounded by a high wall, and it was guarded by a large number of soldiers.

The Khalifa lived in the palace with his family and his entourage. He was a powerful and charismatic leader, and he was greatly respected by his followers. The Khalifa was determined to establish a new Islamic state in Sudan, and he was waging a holy war against the Egyptian government.

### **Chapter 3: The Mahdi**

The Mahdi was the founder of the Mahdist movement. He was a charismatic religious leader who claimed to be the Mahdi, or the guided one. The Mahdi promised to lead his followers to victory against the Egyptian government and to establish a new Islamic state in Sudan.

The Mahdi died in 1885, but his followers continued to fight under the leadership of the Khalifa. The Mahdist state reached its peak in 1889, when it controlled most of Sudan. However, the Mahdist state was eventually defeated by the British in 1898.

### **Chapter 4: The Khalifa**

The Khalifa was the successor to the Mahdi. He was a powerful and ambitious leader, and he was determined to continue the Mahdi's jihad against the Egyptian government.

The Khalifa was a skilled military leader, and he won several victories against the Egyptian forces. However, he was eventually defeated by the British in 1898 at the Battle of Omdurman.

### **Chapter 5: The Siege of Khartoum**

The Siege of Khartoum was a major turning point in the Mahdist War. The siege began in 1884, and it lasted for ten months. The Mahdist forces

surrounded the city of Khartoum, which was defended by the Egyptian garrison under the command of General Gordon.

The siege was a bloody and brutal affair. The Mahdist forces bombarded the city with artillery, and they launched several assaults on the city's defenses. The Egyptian garrison fought bravely, but they were eventually overwhelmed by the Mahdist forces. General Gordon was killed in the final assault on the city.

## **Chapter 6: The Battle of Omdurman**

The Battle of Omdurman was the decisive battle of the Mahdist War. The battle was fought on September 2, 1898, between the Mahdist forces and the Anglo-Egyptian army under the command of General Kitchener.

The Anglo-Egyptian army was much larger and better equipped than the Mahdist forces. The British had a large number of artillery pieces, and they also had the support of the Royal Navy. The Mahdist forces were poorly equipped, and they were outnumbered by the Anglo-Egyptian army.

The battle was a one-sided victory for the Anglo-Egyptian army. The Mahdist forces were routed, and the Khalifa was killed. The battle marked the end of the Mahdist state.

## **Chapter 7: My Release**

After the Battle of Omdurman, I was released from prison. I was allowed to return to my home in Austria, where I was greeted as a hero.

I spent the rest of my life working to promote peace and understanding between the people of Sudan and the people of Europe. I wrote several

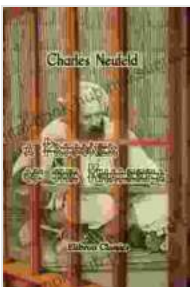
books about my experiences in Sudan, and I became a respected expert on the country.

## Chapter 8: The Reconquest of Sudan

After the Mahdist War, Sudan was reconquered by the British. The British established a new colonial government in Sudan, and they ruled the country for the next 50 years.

Sudan gained its independence in 1956, but it has been plagued by civil war and political instability ever since. The country is currently ruled by a military dictatorship.

*Prisoner of the Khaleefa* is a classic work of travel literature and a valuable historical document. It is a gripping account of one man's experiences in Sudan during the Mahdist War. Slatin's book provides a unique insight into the rise and fall of the Mahdist state, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Sudan.



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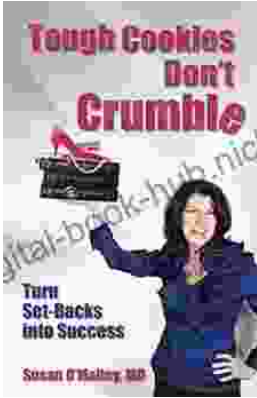
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