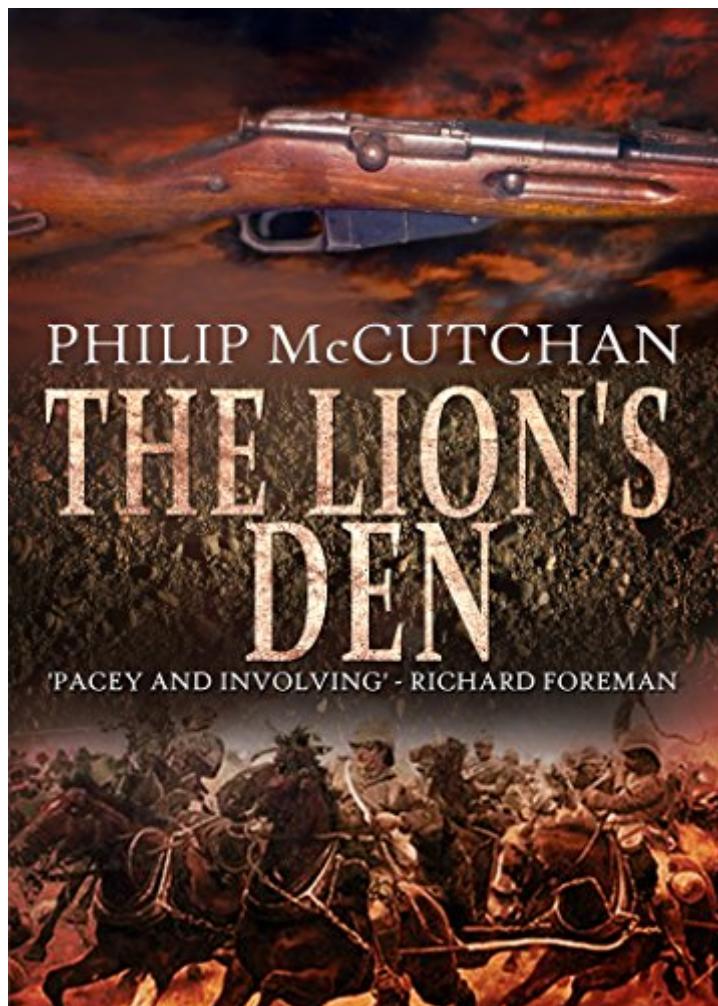


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The Lion's Den (James Ogilvie Book 4)



Synopsis

1897. The North West Frontier. A quiet life is a mixed blessing for the British Army. For in slackness could lie the seeds of disaster, as Captain James Ogilvie of the 114th Queen's Own Royal Strathspeys sees in his own Highlanders. But it is far worse in the 99th Rawalpindi Light Infantry to whom he is temporarily seconded in order, to quote the General, to pull the sepoy battalion up by its boot-strings. And only just in time. Captain James Ogilvie and the Rawalpindis are entrusted with the task of returning through the Khyber to carry the terms of the Ghilzai chieftain, Jarar Mahomed, to Peshawar. It will be a perilous mission. The pressure mounts as Ogilvie becomes responsible for the safety of the British Resident, his charming daughter and ailing wife in mid-winter through a hostile pass where countless British lives have already been laid down for the Raj. But that is not all. Ogilvie has also acquired another and altogether more perplexing responsibility in the shape of an unstable young subaltern, fresh from Sandhurst, who has already gained a far from savoury reputation... Civilian cheese-paring in Calcutta spells the end of a discreet subsidy which was keeping the Ghilzai chieftain Jarar Mahomed, docile on his own Afghanistan side of the Khyber. Jarar Mahomed retaliates swiftly by holding the British Resident at Kunarja to ransom with his family. As Ogilvie and the Rawalpindis, sent to their relief, march into a Ghilzai trap, the gates of Kunarja close behind them... "The Lion" tells of the action, hardship and violent death in the life of a soldier of the Queen-Empress on the bleakest and most inhospitable outpost of her Empire. It is the next thrilling installment in the James Ogilvie series. "His character conflicts are well organised." Daily Telegraph "A most exciting successor to his first novel" and it is just as rugged." The Times, Hamilton, New Zealand Philip McCutchan is a well-known thriller and suspense writer whose special interest in the old British Army in India and the various frontier engagements of the 1890s and the turn of the century has led him to research the period with care and with a novelist's eye for detail. Previously published as "The Gates of Kunarja" Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent publisher of digital books.

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Customer Reviews

I have to confess right off that I like stories about the British Army in India. Think it has to do with Rudyard Kipling's stories of India that I read as a kid. When I came across this story, I thought maybe this would be worth a look. Well I was right it had the elements of a good adventure. First a likeable protagonist in James Ogilvie, a semi-pompous regimental colonel, a damsel in distress, and let us not forget the fierce tribal warriors of the Frontier. The main plot of the story is a rescue mission to save a British consul and his family. As often happens in stories like this thing don't go as planned. There are a couple of subplots in the story one dealing with murder and the other with a man's sexual preferences. Now one thing that this story does it is touch on the issue of homosexuality in late 19th Century Great Britain when you could get jailed for your sexual partners and how it was looked on in society and the military. It doesn't take a side on the issue it just shows how it was viewed. So you have the British Raj, a brief look at the societal mores of the time and the good name of the service in a fast paced story that is a slice of the British Empire.

Traveling the Khyber Pass is always treacherous, with hill people and bandits ambushing and sniping at travelers and even military units. But it is a whole lot worse in the dead of winter when sudden storms drop heavy snow and the footing becomes treacherous. A cut in royal funding causes a huge rift in loyalties, and Captain James Ogilvie is challenged with holding events together long enough to have the funds reinstated before hostages begin to die. A fascinating look into what was long ago with great twists and turns. Well worth the time.

Another great Philip McCutchan novel about a young British officer serving in the Raj at the end of the 19th Century. McCutchan is a wonderful storyteller. One hopes he manages to eventually published a Kindle book without any editing errors

Wow, I loved it! Complex characters, action, plot twists, all in an historic setting - this is a really good read. I look forward to other books about Ogilvie and the Raj.

A very exciting and adventurous story.

Another formula western with a bit more action

liked all his books..

I found it an enjoyable read and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading about the old British raj

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