



Alexander: Child of a Dream

Valerio Massimo Manfredi , Iain Halliday (Translator)

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Before his birth, omens foretold that Alexander, son of the warrior-king Philip of Macedonia, was destined for greatness. From boyhood, the prince was trained by the finest scholars and mightiest soldiers to attain extraordinary strength of body and spirit. A descendant of Heracles and Achilles, Alexander aimed to surpass his ancestors' heroism and honor, and his chosen companions strove to be worthy to share his godlike fate. Even as a youth, Alexander's deeds were unequaled. In a single day, he tamed the fierce steed Bucephalus. In his first battle, his troops defeated the invincible Sacred Band. And as he grew to manhood, surrounded by deadly plots and intrigue, his friends pledged to follow him to the ends of the world. With the support of that loyal group of men, Alexander's might would transform dreams of conquest into reality amid the fabled cities of Persia and the mysterious East...and his destiny would carry them all to glory.

Alexander: Child of a Dream Details

Date : Published October 1st 2001 by Washington Square Press (first published 1998)

ISBN : 9780743434362

Author : Valerio Massimo Manfredi , Iain Halliday (Translator)

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Alexander: Child of a Dream for online ebook

Angigames says

Manfredi mi ha conquistato per il modo in cui narra i fatti storici e intreccia realtà e finzione...

Ma ho fatto immensamente fatica a finirlo, mi sono arenata diverse volte e in alcuni punti la storia si stoppa proprio e comincia l'agonia.

No Manfredi non ha una penna che il mio cervello digerisce liberamente, è ostica e pasante... anche se alla fine il romanzo non è male!

Mohamed Magdy zinhom says

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Trilogija o Aleksandru Velikom je prava poslastica za sve ljubitelje istorijskih romana prepunih akcije, bitaka i brojnih likova od kojih su većina poznate istorijske ličnosti. Odlično zamišljena i koncipirana priča koja prati Aleksandrov život od rođenja do smrti. Bio sam u početku skeptičan kako će Manfredi sve to uklopiti, da li će sve stići i postići. Na kraju sam bio razočaran što nije napisao još koju stranicu. Mene lično su impresionirali opisi bitaka protiv Persijanaca i opsada maloazijskih gradova. Isti petica!

Bojan Medi? says

Trilogija o Aleksandru Velikom je prava poslastica za sve ljubitelje istorijskih romana prepunih akcije, bitaka i brojnih likova od kojih su većina poznate istorijske ličnosti.

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Mene lično su impresionirali opisi bitaka protiv Persijanaca i opsada maloazijskih gradova.

Ista petica!

Lynne Norman says

I loves me historical fiction I do. And this introduction to a trilogy on the life of Alexander the Great is an extremely well-written and well-researched novel that really does transport you to ancient Macedonia.

Manfredi tries - and succeeds - in giving a balanced account of people's actions - painting them not as heroes or villains but human beings with warring emotions and difficult decisions to make.

M.L. Sparrow says

For more reviews, or to see my favourite quotes from this book, check out my blog at <http://mlsparrow.wix.com/mlsparrow>

I actually became interested in Alexander the Great after watching 'Alexander' the movie. I hated the film, but was still interested, since he's a figure I've obviously heard about but don't know that much in depth. I was actually scouting around for non-fiction books about him, but then I saw this book by this author, who wrote Spartan, which is one of my all time favourite books and I had to snap it up!

It did not disappoint! The story itself had similarities to the film, though was also quite different in its portrayal of certain characters, for example in the book I actually sort of liked King Philip, Alexander's father sometimes, whereas in the film he seemed to have no redeeming qualities! I enjoy the authors style of writing and how he can convey feelings and actions in such few words, without overdoing it and yet transport you to that time period beautifully. Reading about his early life certainly piqued my interest and I look forward to reading the second book in the trilogy to see where it takes Alexander and his friends (including his dog, Peritas, who I loved!), now that they are approaching Asia.

Rebecca says

Estimating the date as I can't remember exactly when I first read it, but I really enjoyed this book. Manfredi has become one of my favourite authors of historical fiction. I like how, in this case, he takes a well-known figure such as Alexander the Great and really brings to life aspects that are probably unfamiliar. The trilogy follows him from birth to death and, in this first book, paints a vivid picture of the places and people Alexander grew up with and how he developed his ambition to conquer the world. You can tell that Manfredi comes from an archaeological background - reading his books, you feel like you are right there in the ancient world with the characters, all the sights, sounds and smells.

Credit must also go to the translator for rendering Manfredi's work into English and keeping all of the humour as well as the historical detail.

Giuls says

Ho sempre adorato il personaggio di Alessandro Magno, il grande conquistatore la cui storia si fonde nella leggenda. Ho letto moltissimi libri sulla sua storia, ma questo ancora mi mancava.

Come in tutti i libri di Manfredi Storia e romanzo si mischiano in modo egregio. I dettagli inventati o modificati al fine della storia non sono pochi, basta aprire Wikipedia per accorgersene, però comunque la ricostruzione storica è molto più accurata rispetto a tanti altri libri.

In questa prima parte della trilogia si ha a che fare con il giovane Alessandro, il fanciullo non ancora sovrano e conquistatore. Devo dire che come personaggio mi è piaciuto molto. Sin da piccolo dimostra un carattere molto forte, a volte un po' volubile, ma comunque sin da subito dimostra la grande intelligenza e lo spirito

Anche i personaggi secondari mi sono piaciuti, in particolare il Re Filippo che, per quanto non sia stato un padre modell, è stato comunque meglio di come viene solitamente rappresentato.

Non vedo l'ora di leggere i seguiti!

Il primo romanzo della trilogia dedicata dallo storico Manfredi alla figura mitica di Alessandro, che va da prima della sua nascita sino alla sua incoronazione da Re della Macedonia e l'inizio dell'invasione asiatica. Nonostante qualche elemento fittizio, l'autore si occupa di fornire un'ampia veridicità storica in più elementi (dai fatti storici agli oggetti di uso comune, passando alle interazioni tra i personaggi e caratterizzazioni mai banali), senza risultare pesante ma conferendo invece, nella sua colloquialità, stimoli che lo rendono leggibile in breve tempo.

Accurata ricostruzione storica, ottima lettura.

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Ahmad Sharabiani says

Alexander: Child of a Dream (Aléxandros, #1), Valerio Massimo Manfredi

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Daenerys says

In Italy, Valerio Massimo Manfredi is a well-known and respected historian, writer and tv personality. He's also considered an archaeologist, although in reality he's a specialist in the topography of the ancient world and never studied archaeology in its own right. These days, most of his work involves writing novels and adapting books set in classical antiquity for film and television.

The strong point of his books is his detailed topographic knowledge of the ancient world, which usually makes for very interesting settings. In the case of this book though, the landscape is a minor concern and all of Manfredi's attention is focussed on the figure of Alexander the Great.

Alexander is definitely Manfredi's historical man-crush: although this first chapter of the trilogy deals mainly with his childhood and early adolescence Manfredi does everything in his power to emphasize his extraordinary character, intelligence, strength and (why not) beauty, so that this book reads as a sort of secular hagiography. The exceptional nature of Alexander is dealt with with so little tact and flair that by the middle portion of the book it becomes irritating, to say the least.

The writing is also poor and clichéd, the descriptions are extremely concise, the dialogues are dull, with very few exceptions. Long journeys are described in a few lines while the emotions and feelings of the characters are explained in too much detail, as if the narrator was afraid his readers would not understand them by themselves. The historical sources Manfredi drew upon are obviously many, varied and accurately selected, but the historical and political background is not well integrated with the main core of the novel. For the whole book it seems as if Manfredi is unsure whether he's telling a story or giving a history lecture.

I was really surprised to learn that this book was not the writer's first work of fiction: I have read some of his earlier works and enjoyed those a lot more. If anyone is interested in approaching Manfredi for the first time, I would definitely suggest avoiding this trilogy in favour of *Spartan* or the later *The Ides of March*.

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Teresa says

As a fantasy reader, I've always wondered where authors such as Tamora Pierce get their inspiration in creating their worlds - surprisingly enough this wonderful narrative about the early life of Alexander the Great, closely resembles the many heroes in their wild adventures into their universe. Manfredi has wonderfully concocted a story full of hate, struggle, intrigue and adventure. It just goes to show that war, power and heroism is not only found in fiction - I believe the best thing about this novel is the fact that it is based around true events. Although, if you're not up to date with your Ancient Greek history, you could get lost with all the unusual names from people to cities to tribes but it doesn't completely hinder the story telling.

Great story, the first of the series will captivate you until the end.
