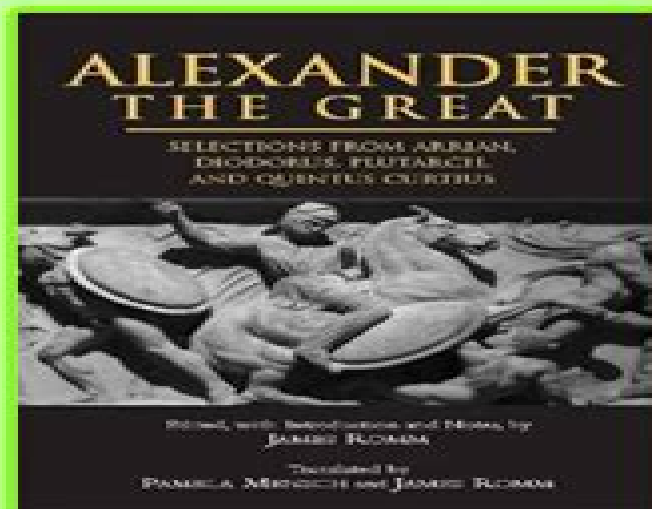


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Alexander The Great Selections From Arrian Diodorous Plutarch And Quintus Curtius

James S. Romm, Pamela Mensch



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authoritarian rulers a father and son both named Dionysius and tried to steer them toward philosophy At the same time he worked on his masterpiece Republic in which he conceived a ruler who unites perfect wisdom with absolute power That dream has echoed down through the ages and given rise to a famous term one that Plato himself didn't actually use philosopher king As Romm reveals Plato's time in Syracuse helped shape Republic and also had disastrous results for Plato himself and for all of Greek Sicily The younger Dionysius emotionally unstable but intellectually curious welcomed Plato with open arms but soon the relationship soured Plato's close friendship with Dionysius's uncle Dion possibly a bond of romantic love created a rift in the ruling family that led to a chaotic civil war Combining thrilling political drama with explorations of Plato's most cherished ideas Romm takes us into the heart of Greece's late classical age a time when many believed that democracy had failed Plato's search for solutions led him to write his fervent plea for a new political order and also led him to a place where he believed his theories might be put into practice But Plato and the Tyrant demonstrates how Plato's experiment with enlightened autocracy spiraled into catastrophe and also gives us nothing less than a new account of the origins of Western political thought

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