



## The Novels of Alexander the Great: Fire from Heaven, The Persian Boy, and Funeral Games

By Mary Renault

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**The Novels of Alexander the Great: Fire from Heaven, The Persian Boy, and Funeral Games** By Mary Renault

**A *New York Times*–bestselling trilogy about the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon and its leader from an author hailed by Hilary Mantel as “a shining light.”**

*Fire from Heaven* is a gripping account of the formative years of Alexander’s life. The story tells of his complex relationship with his parents; of his two great bonds—to his horse, Oxhead, and to his dearest friend and eventual lover, Hephaestion—and of the army he commands when he is barely an adult. Coming of age during the battles for southern Greece, Alexander the Great first takes someone’s life at age twelve and swiftly eliminates his rivals as soon as he comes to power, emerging in this novel as a captivating and complex figure.

The iconic *Persian Boy* centers on the Macedon king as seen through the eyes of his lover and most faithful attendant, the eunuch Bagoas. When Bagoas is very young, his father is murdered and he is sold as a slave to King Darius of Persia. Then, when Alexander conquers the land, he is given Bagoas as a gift, and the boy is besotted. This passion comes at a time when much is at stake—Alexander has two wives, conflicts are ablaze, and plots on his life abound. The result is a riveting account of a great conqueror’s years of triumph and, ultimately, heartbreak.

In *Funeral Games*, a bloody struggle for power rages after the death of Alexander, leaving an empire that extends from the Adriatic Sea to the Indus River. The power players include Ptolemy, two father-son teams, and a cadre of influential women—not least of whom is Eurydike, whose plan is to marry Alexander’s disabled brother, Arridaios. Brimming with outsize personalities, brazen plots, and a sweeping sense of history, *Funeral Games* brings to vivid life the world of Alexander the Great, and the seismic tumult in the wake of his death.

*This ebook features an illustrated biography of Mary Renault including rare images of the author.*

**“Mary Renault is a shining light to both historical novelists and their readers. She does not pretend the past is like the present, or that the people of ancient Greece were just like us. She shows us their strangeness; discerning, sure-footed, challenging our values, piquing our curiosity, she leads us through an alien landscape that moves and delights us.” —Hilary Mantel**

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### Editorial Review

Review

“Mary Renault’s *Alexandriad* is one of the twentieth century’s most unexpectedly original works of art.”  
—Gore Vidal

“Written with her usual vigor and imagination . . . Mary Renault has a great talent.” —*The New York Times*

About the Author

Born in London as Eileen Mary Challans in 1905 and educated at the University of Oxford, Mary Renault trained as a nurse at Oxford’s Radcliffe Infirmary. It was there that she met her lifelong partner, fellow nurse Julie Mullard. After completing her training, Renault wrote her first novel, *Purposes of Love*, in 1937. In 1948, after her novel *Return to Night* won an MGM prize worth \$150,000, she and Mullard immigrated to South Africa. There, Renault wrote the historical novels that would define her career. In 2006, Renault was the subject of a BBC 4 documentary, and her books, many of which remain in print on both sides of the Atlantic, are often sought after for radio and dramatic interpretation. In 2010, *Fire From Heaven* was shortlisted for the 1970 Lost Booker prize.

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**James Rose:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The Novels of Alexander the Great: Fire from Heaven, The Persian Boy, and Funeral Games. Try to make the book The Novels of Alexander the Great: Fire from Heaven, The Persian Boy, and Funeral Games as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

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**Lisa Westra:**

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