



The House of Death

Paul Doherty

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Sweeping across the ancient world, from the sprawling army camp of the Macedonians to the haunting city of Troy to the opulent empire of Persia, and set against the background of Alexander the Great's campaigns, this historical novel of mystery and intrigue unmasks the young warrior who conquered Greece and would make the world his empire. Behind the peerless soldier and strategist it reveals a panic-stricken man hamstrung by superstition, for he has become intimately familiar with fear. Murder can do that, even to a brilliant king and general. At the outset of this ingeniously devised tale, Alexander and the Macedonian army have arrived at the Hellespont. The accomplished general is poised for his conquest of Persia, but the gods -- and scores of dangerous men -- are against him. Troubled and wary, Alexander needs neither omens nor cryptic messages -- death threats encoded in quotations from Homer's Iliad and the tragedies of Euripides -- to know that no one can be trusted. His own generals harbor secret ambitions, Persian spies have infiltrated his camp, his troops are demoralized. Even the physician Telamon, the longtime friend in whom Alexander seems so openly to confide, stands in the shadow of suspicion. But who among them has set in motion the plot to alter Alexander's date with destiny?

The House of Death Details

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From Reader Review The House of Death for online ebook

Inge says

I loved the history in this book and the point of view. You see everything through the eyes of Telamon. He is a doctor of the King with no ambitions of his own and very curious minded.

It is all about a murderer who's killing people close to the King. The King is preparing to go to war with the Persians but someone is killing people in his army. He doesn't trust anyone except for Telamon. So Telamon's main job is to find the killer and to survive the war. But finding a killer in a large army isn't that easy.

This mystery unveils into something I could never have expected. I could guess the murderer but just by chance. The ideas and plans are very interesting and how it came together in the end. Also very interesting way of writing.

Kelly Martin says

This wasn't one of Doherty's best. There was less mystery and more military tactics, and not even modern tactics. I haven't seen phalanx in Iraq in a while. Still it was a better read than an awful lot of books. Worth the time.

Accio Reviews says

Quando andava na escola, História era uma das minhas disciplinas favoritas. Não tanto quando estávamos a estudar os momentos mais recentes, mas as civilizações antigas sempre me fascinaram. Por isso, sempre gostei de ler livros que abordassem essas alturas, mas ultimamente, sem saber muito porquê, não estava muito virada para ler históricos, e andei assim uns meses. Mas quando vi esta série, ainda por cima do Paul Doherty (já tinha lido livros dele mas que se passavam no Antigo Egito e adorei), fiquei logo curiosa, pois nunca tinha lido nada sobre Alexandre O Grande (e tinha visto o filme há pouco tempo, fiquei a querer saber mais).

E devo dizer que gostei bastante. Quando leio livros do Doherty, sinto-me quase como se estivesse a ler um livro de História, pois os enredos são tão autênticos, mostram tanta pesquisa e conhecimento, que mesmo sendo tecnicamente um livro de ficção (embora, segundo o autor, uma grande parte dos eventos que relata sejam realistas de acordo com as fontes existentes), aprendemos imenso sobre a cultura de que fala e as suas personagens históricas.

Já não é a primeira vez que, quando falo deste autor a alguém, digo logo "ele escreve como se estivesse lá". E nunca me canso de o dizer, porque é totalmente verdade. As suas histórias estão repletas dos mais pequenos pormenores, e, ao ler, qualquer pessoa se sente facilmente transportada milhares de anos no passado.

Neste livro, começamos a acompanhar Alexandre no início da sua viagem para a Ásia, com o objectivo de

derrotar o exército persa de Dario III, o Rei dos Reis, e ocupar as cidades para lá do Helesponto. Mas, no seu acampamento, começa uma série de acontecimentos misteriosos, e Alexandre pede a sua mãe, Olímpia, que mande um dos seus amigos de infância, o médico Telamon, para o ajudar a desvendar esse mistério.

Gostei do livro mesmo pelo facto de aprender bastante sobre a grande figura que foi Alexandre. É inacreditável como é que um homem tão novo tinha ambições tão grandes, e encarava já o mundo como um velho sábio com toda uma vida de experiência. Ele era, acima de tudo, um grande actor, e conseguia compensar grandes desvantagens ao enganar os seus adversários com os mais diversos esquemas, ou simplesmente fazendo-se passar pelo jovem ingênuo que muitos pensavam que ele era.

O relato da batalha de Granico está brilhante. Toda a agitação da batalha, a descrição das estratégias de ambos os lados e a forma como são postas em prática, foi tudo muito bem conseguido. Foi mesmo a parte do livro em que fiquei mais presa à leitura.

Quanto à parte da resolução do mistério, a parte mais ficcional do livro, não estava à espera de que acabasse desta forma. Mas como não suspeitava de ninguém (estava mais embrenhada no resto da história), de qualquer maneira iria-me surpreender.

Para terminar, achei curiosa uma das coisas que Paul Doherty referiu na sua Nota final especificamente feita para a edição portuguesa. O autor refere que, antes da sua morte, Alexandre estava a planear ocupar o norte de África e a Península Ibérica. Como a nossa História seria diferente se isso tivesse acontecido!

Recomendo bastante para quem tem curiosidade sobre esta época, ou para quem gosta de um bom romance histórico!

Winnie says

I enjoyed this series about Alexander the Great. As ever Mr Doherty draws you right in and makes you want to read on and on.

Ann McKay says

Thought the book started off overly gory and wasn't that keen on keeping going but I did and it was fantastic.

I didn't know much about Alexander but this was an very interesting way to get an insight into life in ancient times. What an unexpected twist at the end. Can wait to start reading the next book in this series,

Fco. Salvador says

El personaje principal es en realidad Telamón (aunque no aparezca en esa breve presentación de la tapa trasera), aunque la trama está completamente entreverada con el episodio de Alejandro cruzando hacia la península de Anatolia. La novela retrata la personalidad de los compañeros (Ptolomeo, Hefestión...), pero sobre todo la del rey macedonio, representado con una capacidad de planificación y engaño muy superior a

la de sus enemigos.

Betsy says

Somewhat disappointing in that it moves so slow and the villain was so obvious. It took the whole book to get through the Granicus battle so Telamon could be featured with all his contrariness. Alexander is intriguing even without contrived mysteries.

P McL says

Why have I not heard of Paul Doherty?

Well written, entertaining, and interesting. I am looking forward to starting book two of the series. I hope there are many more to come.

Smith Barney says

I devoured you Alexander the Great...beautiful series on this timeless hero.

Denise says

Mysterious deaths and intrigue abound in the camp of the Macedonian army under Alexander the Great as he is about to take the first step in conquering Persia... Entertaining historical mystery, may read more of the series at some point.

Vintagebooklvr says

This reminds me a bit of another Alexander the Great mystery where the culprit was a spy for the Persians and a priestess. This story has a more historical details but for some reason the characters didn't grab me quite as much. It did seem however, that there were too many murders to have it gone unnoticed when there were so many guards. What always comes through in these stories is that Alexander, son of a god or not, was a person of many facets and you never quite knew what you were going to get. That was part of the reason that he achieved something that no one else ever had before.

Dean Cowan says

I initially approached this as a rather lazy history student wanting insight into Alexander the Great and his conquest of Asia. What it introduced me to was a genre, loosely described as an historical "Who- dunnit".

The writing is meticulous as are the descriptions of the court scenes, contemporary clothing and unexpectedly thrilling when describing the battle at the Granicus River as the climax of the book.

The story centres are the fictional character, Telamon, a young slightly haughty and reserved, physician and boyhood friend of Alexander. A fugitive from Egypt after slaying a Persian soldier for violating his mistress, he is summoned to the court of Alexander's murderous mother, Olympia and sent on a mission to join Alexander on the borders of his empire at Hellespont to participate in the final battle to bring down Darius the Great and impose Greek rule on the Persian Empire and dominance of Asia. Historical events provide a vivid backdrop for what is in effect a murder mystery, which starts with the unexplained deaths of Alexander's especially selected scouts from Troy under the leadership of his beautiful Athenean High Priestess Antigone spreading to other members of his camp. All killed in the same way with a lethal Celtic dagger in the side and with written cryptic messages from the Iliad left with the victims' corpses. Telamon eventually realises that he has not been sent only as Alexander's physician but as the person the Emperor trusts to investigate the murders by the mysterious Persian spy Naiphet

As with many works of good historical fiction, Doherty weaves the lives of historical actors such as Alexander the Great, Ptolemy, and Mennon of Rhodes with well rounded and believable characters such as Talamon, his female freed slave assistant Cassandra and Hercules, dwarf spy working for Aristander the Necromancer.

The narrative moves at a steady pace combined with rich description. Doherty is a skilful story teller whose uncomplicated style never loses momentum.
