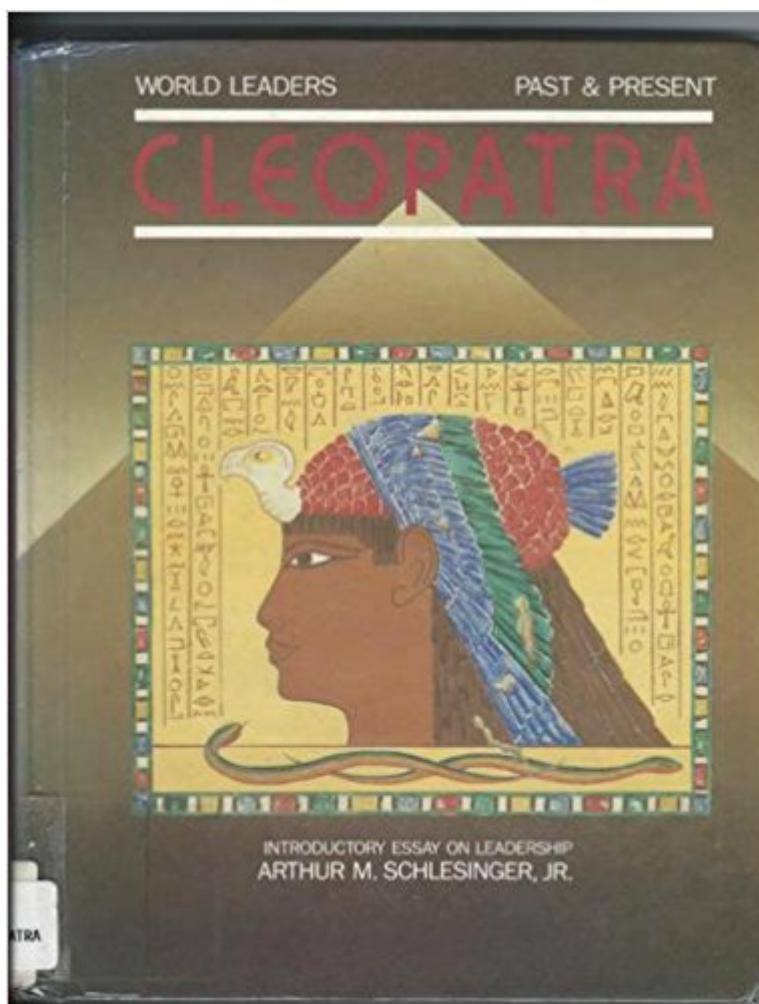


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Cleopatra (World Leaders Past & Present)



Synopsis

A biography of the Egyptian queen who gained and maintained power over her kingdom through her alliance with Julius Caesar and later Marc Antony.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Series: World Leaders Past & Present

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up Cleopatra's genius, beauty, and ruthless ambition changed the course of the ancient world. Centuries after her death, her larger-than-life persona comes alive in this vibrant biography. Her fabled exploits rival any adventure story. However, the Hooblers use solid research to show that Cleopatra was far more than just the ``Siren of the Nile.'' Her life was a series of bold gambles in her quest for world domination, a deadly game she ultimately lost. Memorable quotations from ancient historians enliven the margins of almost every page. The many black-and-white photographs of ancient artifacts and of later depictions of Cleopatra's life are skillfully integrated into the text. Well researched, well written, well illustrated, and well worth reading. Marguerite F. Raybould, Glendale Public Library, Calif. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

excellent condition - thank you

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.'s introductory essay on leadership in this book meshes well with the story of Cleopatra VII Philopater, who above all other aspects of her life, strove to be a strong leader for

Egypt. She was indeed a strong ruler, although she had to murder most of her siblings to stay in power. Unfortunately, she was also a bad general and instead of restoring her country to its former glory, she was the last ruler of an independent Egypt for many centuries to come. Roman historian Lucius Cassius Dio said of Cleopatra: "For she was a woman of surpassing beauty, and at that time, when she was in the prime of her youth, she was most striking; she also possessed a most charming voice and knowledge of how to make herself agreeable to everyone." This Young Adult (YA) biography of Cleopatra begins with her introduction to Marc Antony in 41 B.C., who at the time of their meeting was one of the three members of the Roman triumvirate that ruled the Mediterranean world. Cleopatra had already persuaded Rome's dictator, Julius Caesar to allow her to remain in power (and in the process, bore him a son), but after Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C., Egypt's last queen had to begin all over again with Marc Antony. It was her misfortune to back the wrong Roman ruler, and when Caesar's nephew, Octavian won the war for Egypt, both Marc Antony and Queen Cleopatra committed suicide. Cleopatra was briefly outlived by her son, Caesarion, who was declared pharaoh by his supporters, but he was soon assassinated on Octavian's orders. This book does not say what happened to Cleopatra's children by Marc Antony, but according to Wikipedia: "The three children of Cleopatra and Antony were spared and taken back to Rome where they were taken care of by Antony's wife, Octavia Minor. The daughter, Cleopatra Selene, was married through arrangements of Octavian to Juba II of Mauretania." This book is one of my favorites in the Chelsea House Publishers' 'World Leaders Past & Present' series. Cleopatra is brought to life by authors, Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler who provide us with vivid details of her surroundings: "Up the river Cydnus toward Tarsus she sailed in a boat with a stern of gold, its purple sails billowing in the wind while slaves slapped silver oars against the water in time to the music of flutes, pipes, and lutes." Numerous black-and-white illustrations also add luster to the story of Egypt's beautiful, ill-fated queen.

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