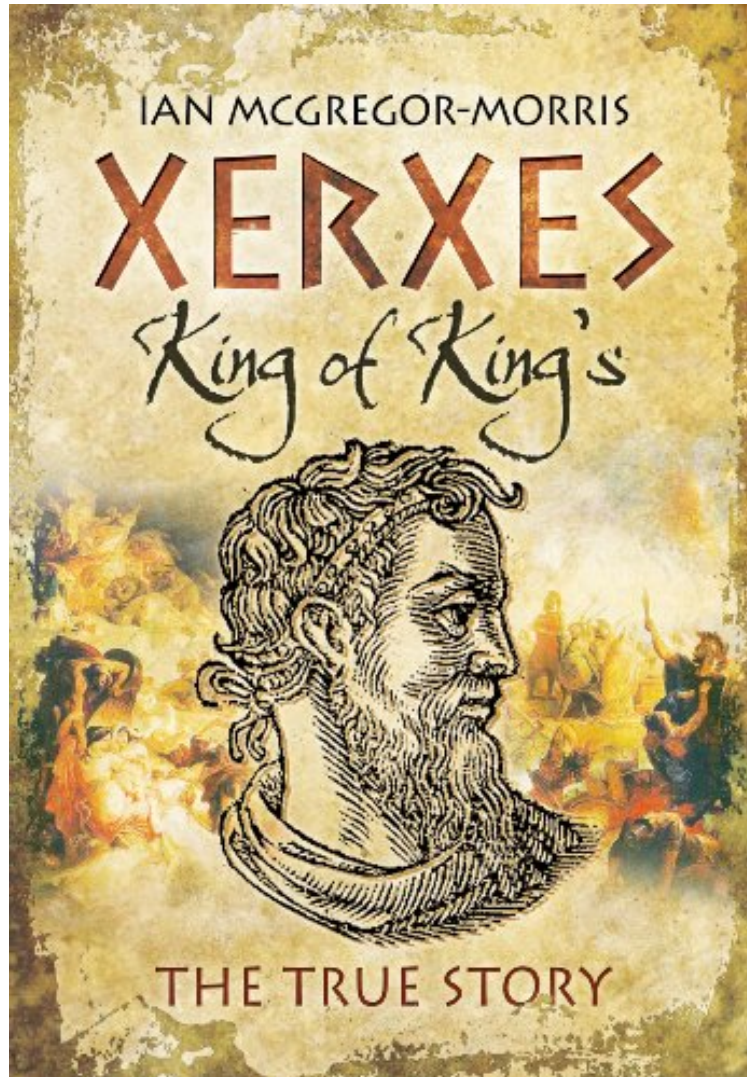


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Xerxes: King of Kings: The True Story

Ian MacGregor Morris

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Ian MacGregor Morris : Xerxes: King of Kings: The True Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Xerxes: King of Kings: The True Story:

Xaya-ra (Khshayarshan) to the Persians, Ahasuerus to the Jews, Xerxes to the Greeks. So great was his power, that he was hailed by the Persians as King of Kings, and by the Greeks as The Great King. Famed for his beauty and magnificence, he ruled over the greatest empire the world had known, and built cities the like of which the world had never seen. He was the king who re-conquered Egypt and subdued the rebels of Babylon; he was the king who

captured Athens and burnt the temples of the Acropolis; and of course he was the king who defeated Leonidas, the greatest of the Warrior-Kings of Sparta. Some claim that he was the king who saved the Jews. The life of Xerxes, however, has never been told until now. Ian McGregor Morris brings together a variety of evidence, literary and archaeological, to create a nuanced account that fully takes into account the context of fifth-century Persia. Morris reviews the background of Xerxes upbringing and his early taste of power, the problems of the succession, and the challenges he faced as a new king. The Greek expedition will be considered from a Persian perspective, while the effect of its failure on Persian policy in general, and on Xerxes in particular, forms a major theme of the later chapters. The character of Xerxes, so often depicted as hubristic, will be reexamined in terms of notions of Persian kingship, while his domestic policies on issues such as religious tolerance and the ambitious building programs will be seen in light of the political events of the period. To those who know Xerxes only as the sadistic but effeminate poser in gold underpants from the 300 films (300 II is due out in March 2014), it will show a real man who is far more impressive.

About the Author Dr Ian Macgregor Morris has a PhD in History from Manchester University, and has taught at the universities of Manchester, Keele, London, Exeter and Nottingham. He has published books and numerous articles on ancient history and on the classical tradition. He now lives in Austria where divides his time between writing and being a full-time Dad to his daughter.