

Augustus: The Life of Rome's First Emperor



Augustus: The Life of Rome's First Emperor

by Anthony Everitt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
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Print length : 416 pages



By Adrian Goldsworthy



Augustus: The Life of Rome's First Emperor is a fascinating and insightful biography of one of the most important figures in Roman history. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources, Adrian Goldsworthy paints a vivid portrait of Augustus, from his humble beginnings to his rise to power and his eventual transformation into the first emperor of Rome.

Augustus was born Gaius Octavius in 63 BC, into a wealthy equestrian family. His father died when he was four, and his mother remarried to Julius Caesar, who became his stepfather. Octavius was Caesar's adopted son and heir, and he accompanied Caesar on his campaigns in Gaul and Egypt. After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Octavius returned to Rome and claimed his inheritance. He formed an alliance with Mark Antony and Lepidus, and together they defeated Caesar's assassins at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC.

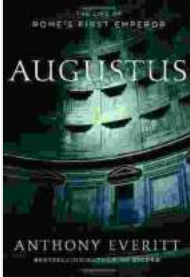
Octavius and Antony then divided the Roman world between them, with Octavius taking control of the west and Antony taking control of the east. However, the two men soon came into conflict, and they fought a civil war that culminated in the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. Octavius was victorious, and Antony and his wife Cleopatra committed suicide. Octavius was now the undisputed master of Rome.

Octavius ruled Rome for the next 41 years, during which time he brought peace and stability to the empire. He reformed the government, the army, and the economy, and he oversaw a period of great cultural and artistic achievement. He was also a great patron of the arts, and he commissioned many public works, including the Colosseum and the Pantheon.

Augustus died in 14 AD, at the age of 76. He was succeeded by his adopted son Tiberius. Augustus's reign is considered one of the most important in Roman history, and he is widely regarded as one of the greatest emperors of all time.

Adrian Goldsworthy's biography of Augustus is a masterful work of scholarship. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources, Goldsworthy paints a

vivid portrait of Augustus, from his humble beginnings to his rise to power and his eventual transformation into the first emperor of Rome. This is a must-read for anyone interested in Roman history.



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