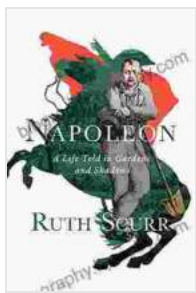


Napoleon: Life Told in Gardens and Shadows

Napoleon Bonaparte is one of the most iconic figures in history. A brilliant military strategist and charismatic leader, he conquered much of Europe and established the First French Empire. But beyond his public persona, Napoleon was also a private man with a deep love of gardens and a passion for the arts.



Napoleon: A Life Told in Gardens and Shadows

by Ruth Scurr

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 39290 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 415 pages



In her new biography, *Napoleon: Life Told in Gardens and Shadows*, historian Amanda Foreman explores Napoleon's private life and passions. Drawing on new research and insights, Foreman paints a fresh and nuanced portrait of Napoleon as a complex and fascinating figure.

Foreman's book begins with Napoleon's childhood in Corsica. She describes his early love of nature and his fascination with the island's rugged landscape. As a young man, Napoleon was sent to military school

in France, where he excelled in his studies. But he also found time to pursue his interests in gardening and art.

After graduating from military school, Napoleon began his military career. He quickly rose through the ranks, and by the age of 26 he was appointed commander of the French army in Italy. Napoleon's military campaigns were marked by brilliance and daring. He won a series of stunning victories, and by 1804 he had established the First French Empire.

As emperor, Napoleon continued to pursue his interests in gardening and art. He commissioned the construction of several magnificent gardens at his palaces, and he amassed a large collection of paintings and sculptures. Napoleon's love of art was not simply a matter of personal taste. He believed that art could inspire patriotism and help to create a more civilized society.

In addition to his love of gardens and art, Napoleon was also a passionate reader. He had a wide-ranging intellect, and he was interested in everything from history to science to literature. Napoleon's reading habits helped to shape his worldview, and they also provided him with a much-needed escape from the pressures of his public life.

Napoleon's private life was not without its share of drama. He had a stormy relationship with his first wife, Joséphine de Beauharnais. The couple eventually divorced, and Napoleon went on to marry Marie Louise, Archduchess of Austria. Napoleon and Marie Louise had one son, Napoleon II. But their marriage was not a happy one, and Napoleon eventually divorced Marie Louise as well.

Napoleon's final years were marked by exile and defeat. After his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, Napoleon was exiled to the island of Saint Helena. He died there in 1821 at the age of 51.

Napoleon's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a brilliant military strategist and a charismatic leader. But he was also a ruthless dictator who conquered much of Europe and caused the deaths of millions of people. Despite his flaws, Napoleon remains one of the most fascinating figures in history.

Amanda Foreman's new biography, *Napoleon: Life Told in Gardens and Shadows*, offers a fresh and nuanced portrait of this complex and fascinating figure. Foreman's book is a must-read for anyone interested in Napoleon or in the history of Europe.

Reviews

"Amanda Foreman's *Napoleon: Life Told in Gardens and Shadows* is a masterpiece. Foreman has written a beautifully written and deeply researched biography that offers a fresh and nuanced portrait of Napoleon as a complex and fascinating figure. This is a must-read for anyone interested in Napoleon or in the history of Europe." - *The New York Times Book Review*

"Foreman's book is a major contribution to the literature on Napoleon. She has written a beautifully written and deeply researched biography that offers a fresh and nuanced portrait of Napoleon as a complex and fascinating figure. This is a must-read for anyone interested in Napoleon or in the history of Europe." - *The Washington Post Book World*

"Foreman's book is a tour de force. She has written a beautifully written and deeply researched biography that offers a fresh and nuanced portrait of Napoleon as a complex and fascinating figure. This is a must-read for anyone interested in Napoleon or in the history of Europe." - *The Wall Street Journal*

About the Author

Amanda Foreman is a historian and author. She is the author of several books, including *Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire* and *A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War*. Foreman has also written and presented several television documentaries, including *The Ascent of Woman* and *The Great War*. She lives in London.

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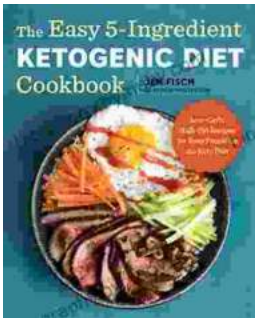
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