



# The Virtues of War: A Novel of Alexander the Great

*Steven Pressfield*

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## **The Virtues of War: A Novel of Alexander the Great** Steven Pressfield

Filled with meticulously researched details and told from the point of view of Alexander the Great himself, *The Virtues of War* is a novel as intensely gripping as bulletins from the battlefield and as intimately revealing as a private diary.

Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) ascended to the throne of Macedon as the age of 20. He fought his greatest battles, including the conquest of the mighty Persian Empire, before he was 25 and died a few months short of his 33rd birthday, still undefeated by any enemy. His reputation as a supreme warrior and leader of men is unsurpassed in the annals of history. In the brilliantly imagined-first person voice of Alexander the Great, acclaimed novelist Steven Pressfield brings to life his epic battles, his unerring command of his forces, and the passions and ambitions that drove him. Alexander was a fearless commander who moved with such daring and speed that no army could withstand him; a driven leader whose hunger for conquest knew no limits; and a man with boundless compassion for his troops, deep friendships with his generals, and profound respect for his enemies. Yet in the end, his noble qualities were subsumed by his insatiable lust for glory.

No one writes about battles as brilliantly as Pressfield, and in *The Virtues of War* he vividly describes the seminal conflicts of Alexander's career, revealing the tactics behind them and capturing the blood, heat, and terror of the battlefield. He follows Alexander's forces as they faced and defeated armies that far outnumbered them and delivers a thrilling frontline report from Gaugamela, the scene of Alexander's greatest victory. In the powerful ending, Pressfield shows a great conqueror finally halted, not by an enemy but by his own overreaching ambition.

Epic in scope and magisterial in tone, *The Virtues of War* is sure to take its place among the classics of historical fiction.

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