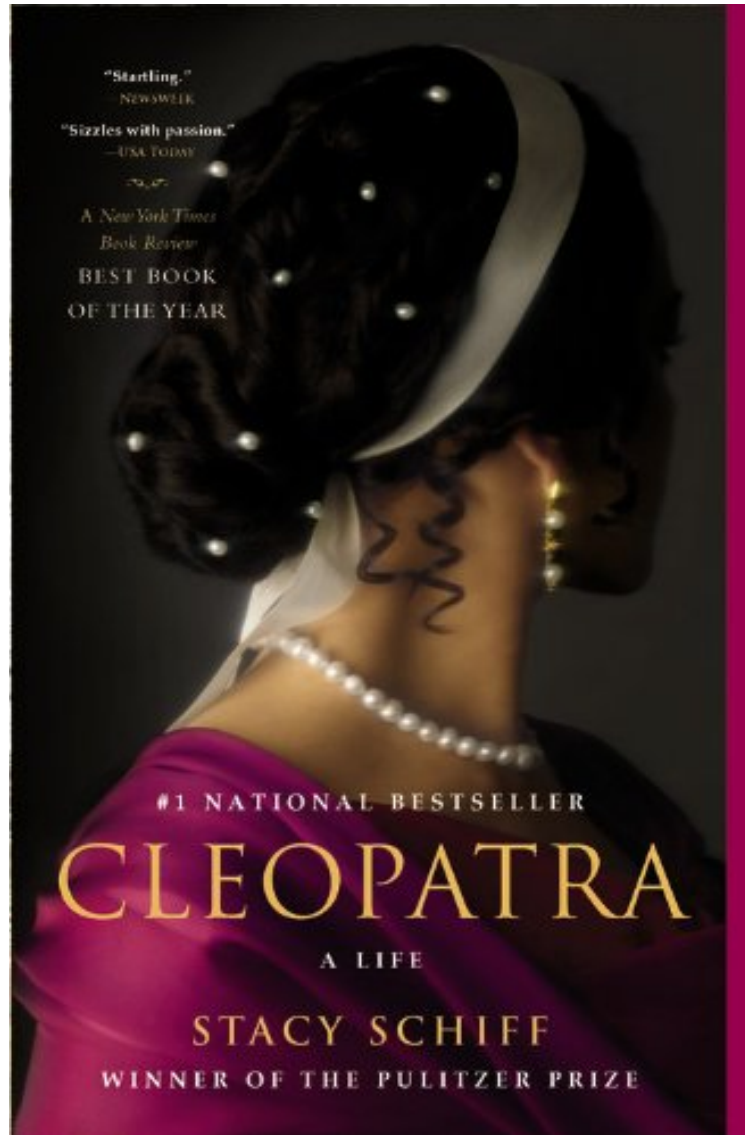


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## Cleopatra: A Life

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**Stacy Schiff : Cleopatra: A Life** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cleopatra: A Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like ItBy Shirley PentoI bought this for my mother and she said that the book changed the way that she thought things happened at that time. it was very eye opening and in some places hard to get through She was glad to read it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent ! Cleopatra is a boss for sure!By Vicki ReeveStacy Schiff tells a great true story. I honestly thought I knew everything I needed to know

about Cleopatra and her life . But i was wrong. Filled with intrigue and facts of her most wonderful, exciting ,and cut short to soon life . Great read great listen . I have both !5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Schiff uncovers the "real" CleopatraBy kaye adkinsWriting about the historical Cleopatra is a daunting task but Stacy Schiff managed to create an extremely readable and authoritative biography Records concerning the period are sketchy and more legend than history exists about this fascinating queen. Sifting through the many historians' versions of her life and those of the Romans with which she lived and worked is difficult enough but when one tries to verify the disparaging and untrue accounts of her as a woman as well as a monarch,ferreting out the "truth" is monumentally difficult. Nevertheless, Schiff has created an authoritative and very readable account of one of history's most beguiling and powerful individuals, through painstaking research and excellent judgment.

Her palace shimmered with onyx and gold but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Above all else, Cleopatra was a shrewd strategist and an ingenious negotiator. She was married twice, each time to a brother. She waged a brutal civil war against the first and poisoned the second; incest and assassination were family specialties. She had children by Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, two of the most prominent Romans of the day. With Antony she would attempt to forge a new empire, in an alliance that spelled both their ends. Famous long before she was notorious, Cleopatra has gone down in history for all the wrong reasons. Her supple personality and the drama of her circumstances have been lost. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . From its opening strains of music, this audiobook of Schiff's stellar biography of the Egyptian queen rewards the intellect and the senses. As Schiff dusts away history's spider webs, romance's distortions, and sexism's corruptions to reveal the true (or at least the truest possible) portrait of Cleopatra, Robin Miles's voice is deep, confiding, the perfect instrument to introduce a history that has been variously forgotten, misunderstood, or suppressed. Her enunciation is crisp, her pacing pure charm: she wrings every sentence for meaning, irony, and wit, taking us through pages of description or analysis with a stately pace. A Little, Brown hardcover. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.From BooklistFor those who think they know enough about Cleopatra or have the enigmatic Egyptian queen all figured out, think again. Schiff, demonstrating the same narrative flair that captivated readers of her Pulitzer Prizewinning *Vladimir Nabokov* (1999), provides a new interpretation of the life of one of history's most enduringly intriguing women. Rather than a devastatingly beautiful femme fatale, Cleopatra, according to Schiff, was a shrewd power broker who knew how to use her manifold gifts—wealth, power, and intelligence—to negotiate advantageous political deals and military alliances. Though long on facts and short on myth, this stellar biography is still a page-turner; in fact, because this portrait is grounded so thoroughly in historical context, it is even more extraordinary than the more fanciful legend. Cleopatra emerges as a groundbreaking female leader, relying on her wits, determination, and political acumen rather than sex appeal to astutely wield her power in order to get the job done. Ancient Egypt never goes out of style, and Cleopatra continues to captivate successive generations. -- Margaret Flanagan "Stacy Schiff has managed to create a masterpiece."Michael Korda, *The Daily Beast*"[Schiff] writes against the fabulous grain...There are countless books about Cleopatra, but this one, I suspect, would have been one of her favorites."Laura Miller, *Salon.com*"Captivating...Ms. Schiff strips away the accretions of myth that have built up around the Egyptian queen and plucks off the imaginative embroiderings of Shakespeare, Shaw and Elizabeth Taylor. In doing so, she gives us a cinematic portrait of a historical figure far more complex and compelling than any fictional creation, and a wide, panning, panoramic picture of her world."Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*"A swift, sympathetic life of one of history's most maligned and legendary women."Kirkus"[A] dazzling, meticulous biography."Caryn James, *More*"Schiff excavates truth from myth with vivid eloquence, taking us back to a life in a time and place that was both 'an orgy of pillage and murder' and 'the Paris of the ancient world.'"Natasha Clark, *Elle*"Hugely compelling...Schiff sifts through gauzy mythology to uncover a brilliant young woman."Vogue "[An] excellent, myth-busting biography....No one will think of Cleopatra in quite the same way after reading this vivid, provocative book."Washington Examiner