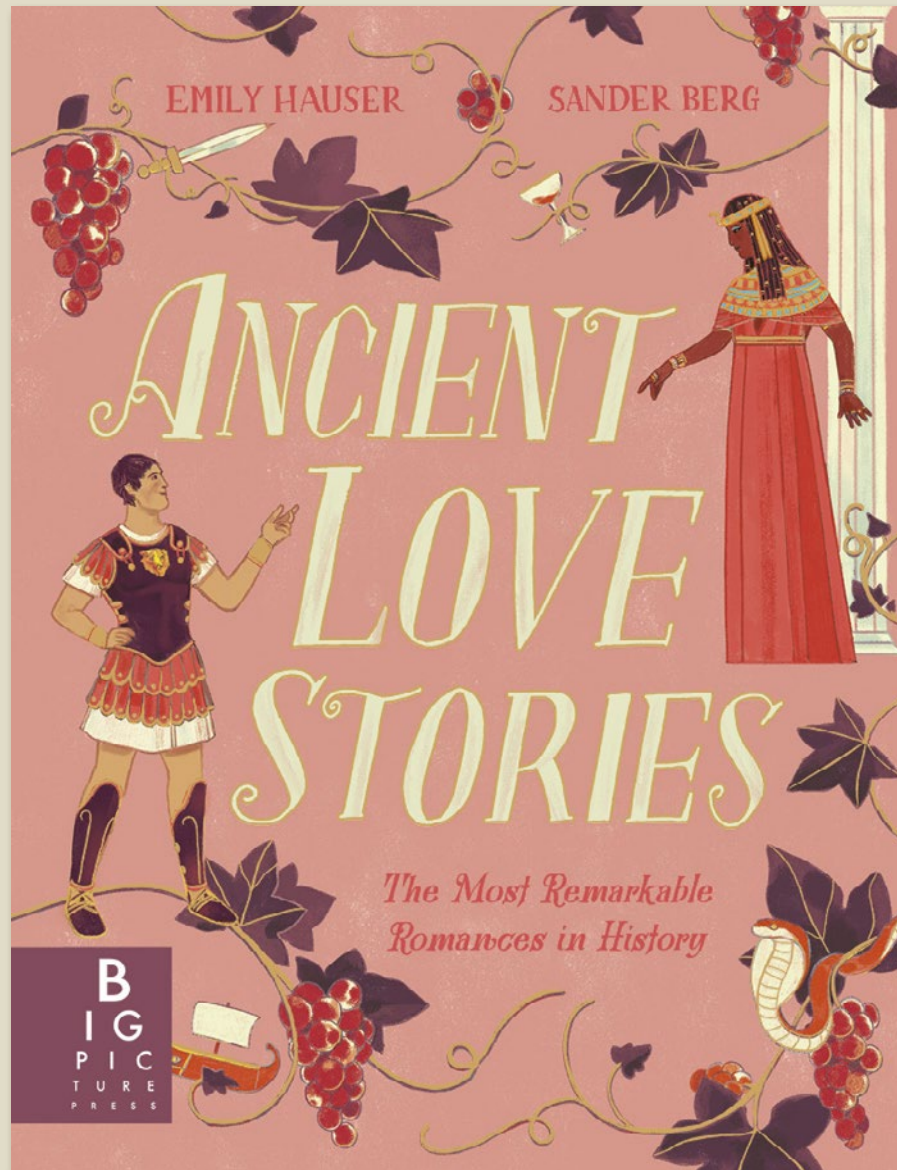


Ancient Love Stories



A striking collection of love stories from ancient history.

- Final contents - Sappho (ancient Greek), Nebuchadnezzar II and Amytis (Babylonian), The Sacred Band of Thebes (ancient Greek), Sima Xiangru and Zhuo Wenjun (Chinese), Mark Antony and Cleopatra (ancient Rome), The Lovers of Pompeii (ancient Rome), Hadrian and Antinous (ancient Rome), Eloise and Abelard (French), Frances Howard and Robert Carr (English), Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal (Indian), The Sanchos (USA)
- Written by award-winning classicist and author, Emily Hauser.
- Featuring a range of true stories from around the world, discover the astonishing lengths humankind have gone to in the name of love.
- A list of Sander's publishers: US - Penguin Random House; Germany - Knesebeck Von Dem GmbH

Ancient Love Stories



THE SACRED BAND OF THEBES

This was the final meeting place of the Sacred Band of Thebes, one of the most remarkable and most loyal armies that had ever lived. A bold experiment in an open town square by attacking war and heroes alike, who had died fighting for the freedom of the Greeks. An army, not just of soldiers, but of a hundred and fifty noble boys.

Born together by love loyalty to each other, the crack team of warriors was founded in Thebes in 378 BC by an extraordinary visionary by the name of Pammenes. It began as a resistance corps against the looming military power of Sparta (renowned the world over for its famously trained soldiers across the continent to the south). These were chivalry, aristocratic boys, splashing blood across the pages of history, and well suited to the birth of a new kind of army.

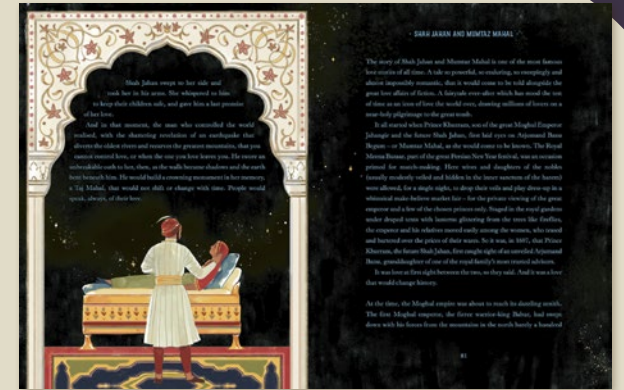


HERODIAS AND ANTOCHUS

These parts first crossed across years earlier, when Herodias - ruler of the Roman world and self-proclaimed priestess - took a summer jaunt across the Roman province of Bithynia, in northern Turkey, where Antiochus had his home. The emperor, busy with his job, probably did not spot Antiochus among the crowds of adoring subjects and eager petitioners. But one of his mistresses did - and, as usual, with an eye to the emperor's taste, spent a night in the palace in the beautiful bedroom named after the name of Pammenes. This must have seemed an offer too good to be true - a one-way ticket to live among the stars. But, in any good market of opportunity, would have known, by reaction to the sun and you might get burned.

Antiochus' rise to the top was meteoric even by Roman standards, where there were plenty of high achievers who made it to the big time. Set among the other staff of the imperial household, Antiochus - handsome, good-looking, smart, with a magnetic personality and a sensitive taste for Herodias' favored boys - quickly caught the emperor's eye. Herodias was instantly besotted, and Antiochus became his pet. In the summer of 118 AD, at the age of seventeen, Antiochus was personally selected to accompany Herodias on a tour of Greece (Herodias was a notorious Greek sympathiser, then said - Asia Minor and, finally, Egypt).

It was clear to everyone that Herodias was willing to let Antiochus out of his sight - and together, they took part in many extraordinary experiences over their around-the-world trip. A night-long dip into mystical rituals at the Thracian Mountains of Greece. A bank heist based in the highlands of Asia Minor. A quest - about the searching out of Herodias' much-loved Greek mythology books - to take down a mountain lion that had been terrorising the people of Licia. On all these adventures, the new obsession with each other grew steadily.

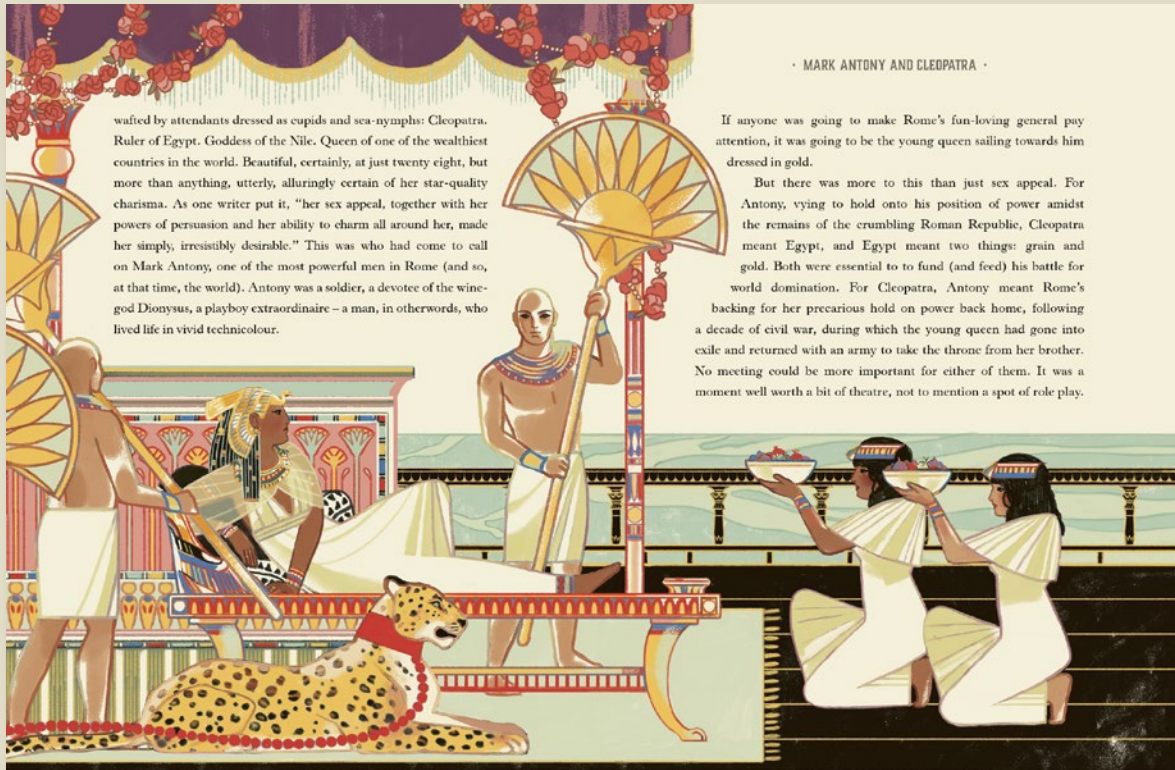


SHAH JAHAN AND MUMTAZ MAHAL

The story of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal is one of the most beautiful love stories of all time. A tale of passion, devotion, tragedy and ultimate sacrifice, their love story is a tale that has inspired the great love films of cinema. It is a love story which has moved the hearts of millions of people across the world, showing millions of hearts over a new love pilgrimage to the great world.

It all started when Shah Jahan, one of the great Mughal Emperors, fell in love with Mumtaz Mahal, the most beautiful woman in the world. The Prince Mumtaz Mahal, the great Prince of the East, was a young prince, a young prince for marriage. Her father and daughter of the noble, family nobility, and her father in the love romance of the heart had been blessed, for a single night, to sleep their souls and play down in a moment made before another love. But the prince, young of the great emperor and a line of the chosen prince only, stayed in the royal garden until Mumtaz Mahal came with her, glowing from the sun. The father, the emperor and his relatives turned early among the women, who would and honored over the years of their union. It was, in 1627, that Prince Mumtaz Mahal, the great Prince of the East, fell in love with Mumtaz Mahal, the most beautiful woman of the world. Mumtaz Mahal, the most beautiful woman of the world, was the most beautiful woman of the world. It was her love that became the love, as they said. And it was her love that became the love.

At the time, the Mughal empire was down to reach its dazzling zenith. The great Mughal emperor, the great emperor, Shah Jahan, had made down with his father from the mountains in the north, finally a hundred



MARK ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

wafted by attendants dressed as cupids and sea-nymphs: Cleopatra, Ruler of Egypt. Goddess of the Nile. Queen of one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Beautiful, certainly, at just twenty eight, but more than anything, utterly, alluringly certain of her star-quality charisma. As one writer put it, "her sex appeal, together with her powers of persuasion and her ability to charm all around her, made her simply, irresistibly desirable." This was who had come to call on Mark Antony, one of the most powerful men in Rome (and so, at that time, the world). Antony was a soldier, a devotee of the wine-god Dionysus, a playboy extraordinaire - a man, in other words, who lived life in vivid technicolour.

If anyone was going to make Rome's fun-loving general pay attention, it was going to be the young queen sailing towards him dressed in gold.

But there was more to this than just sex appeal. For Antony, vying to hold onto his position of power amidst the remains of the crumbling Roman Republic, Cleopatra meant Egypt, and Egypt meant two things: grain and gold. Both were essential to fund (and feed) his battle for world domination. For Cleopatra, Antony meant Rome's backing for her precarious hold on power back home, following a decade of civil war, during which the young queen had gone into exile and returned with an army to take the throne from her brother. No meeting could be more important for either of them. It was a moment well worth a bit of theatre, not to mention a spot of role play.

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