



Spartan

By Valerio Massimo Manfredi

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Herodotus tells us that not all of the three hundred Spartan warriors died at the hands of Xerxes, King of the Persians, in the battle of the Thermopylae: two were saved bringing a life-saving message back to the city . . .

This is the saga of a Spartan family, torn apart by a cruel law that forces them to abandon one of their two sons - born lame - to the elements. The elder son, Brithos, is raised in the caste of the warriors, while the other, Talos, is spared a cruel death and is raised by a Helot shepherd, among the peasants.

They live out their story in a world dominated by the clash between the Persian empire and the city-states of Greece - a ferocious, relentless conflict - until the voice of their blood and of human solidarity unites them in a thrilling, singular enterprise.

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Spartan By Valerio Massimo Manfredi Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #553070 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-09-23
- Released on: 2011-09-23
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Manfredi, author of a trilogy about the life of Alexander the Great (*Alexander*), here tells an epic tale of Sparta and its rivalry with other Greek city-states in the face of repeated Persian invasions in the fifth century B.C. Two Spartan brothers, sons of a famous Spartan warrior, are separated as babies. One boy, Brithos, is healthy and strong, destined to become a soldier like his father. The other baby boy, Kleidemos, has a crippled foot and is left on a mountainside to die, in accordance with Spartan law. However, Kleidemos is found by an old man, a Helot (serf), and is raised as a Helot shepherd. As years pass, both boys grow into men, neither knowing of the other. Brithos becomes a Spartan warrior, and Kleidemos the shepherd (renamed Talos by his Helot family) learns a powerful and mysterious secret from his Helot grandfather. The paths of the two brothers cross in several unexpected ways as wars with Persia and conflicts and intrigues between Sparta and Athens inflame all of Greece. As master and slave, the two brothers fight alongside King Leonidas and the 300 Spartans at the battle of Thermopylae, and they develop a bond neither can explain or understand. Brithos's fate is tied to Kleidemos, but the cripple's future is determined by the disturbing secret revealed by his grandfather. When Kleidemos finally learns that he is both a Spartan and a Helot, he is tormented by his divided loyalties. Manfredi is a masterful storyteller, carefully weaving in political and military history, realistically describing the brutality of hoplite warfare and vividly depicting the treachery and betrayal of kings.

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From [Booklist](#)

Capitalizing on the success of his hugely popular Alexander trilogy, Italian archaeologist and novelist Manfredi has crafted another compelling saga set in ancient Greece. Born with a crippled foot, a baby is reluctantly abandoned by his aristocratic parents in accordance with Spartan law. Rescued by a Helot shepherd, young Talos grows to manhood, unaware of his noble roots. When destiny intervenes and Talos is brought face to face with his brother Brithos, a brutal Spartan warrior, the two engage in a puzzling contest of strength and wills. Eventually discovering the truth of his birth, Talos is torn between the Spartan blood coursing through his veins and the Helot pride instilled in him by his adoptive father. Plenty of action, passion, and drama underscore this authentically detailed historical adventure. *Margaret Flanagan*

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Review

"Once you start reading books like *Spartan* or the Alexander trilogy, you simply can't put them down." -- *Dino DeLaurentiis, producer of Red Dragon*

"*Spartan* is an intelligent, knowledgeable and entertaining story, as much an education as an entertainment." -- *Bernard Cornwell, NY Times Bestselling author of Heretic*

"With...vivid characterization and heart-stopping action...Manfredi...gives us a thought-provoking look at the roots of our own civilization." -- *Michael Curtis Ford, author of Gods and Legions*

Dino DeLaurentiis Producer of *Red Dragon* Valerio Massimo Manfredi is a uniquely great writer who, like the celebrated masters of the past, can create important historical novels while still making them easy and exciting to read. Once you start reading books like *Spartan* or the Alexander trilogy, you simply can't put them down. -- *Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lacey Clements:

Within other case, little men and women like to read book Spartan. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Providing we know about how is important the book Spartan. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can know everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will be known. About simple point until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, you can open a book or maybe searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel bored stiff to go to the library. Let's study.

Rachel Leadbetter:

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Suzanne Palmer:

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Cathy Kerby:

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