Jerusalem Biography Simon Sebag Montefiore

Istanbul, Rome and JerusalemYoung StalinThe RomanovsTitans of HistoryThe WorldJerusalemSummary of The RomanovsStalinThe Royal Rabbits of LondonKing's ParadeMy Affair with StalinStalinVoices of HistoryOne Night in WinterWritten in HistoryJerusalemRoyal Rabbits of London: the Hunt for the Golden CarrotRed Sky at NoonHeroesThe Romanovs Simon Sebag Montefiore Instaread Summaries Simon Sebag Montefiore Santa Montefiore Simon Sebag Montef

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simon sebag montefiore one of our most popular historians and also presenter of bbc television series on istanbul rome and jerusalem selects the essential cast of dramatic characters who built destroyed or changed the three great holy cities the creators of

istanbul from the murderous visionary constantine the great to the ultimate power couple justinian and his burlesque dancer turned empress theodora to suleiman the magnificent and his wife roxelana all the way to ataturk in jerusalem from herod the great who killed his beloved wife and three sons to the great crusader queen melisende and the arab conqueror saladin in rome from psychotic caligula and the philosopher marcus aurelius to the megalomanical seductress marozia the borgias and mussolini these are stories and characters that everyone should know and no one should forget

winner of the costa biography award what makes a stalin was he a tsarist agent or lenin s bandit was he to blame for his wife s death when did the killing start based on revelatory research here is the thrilling story of how a charismatic cobbler s son became a student priest romantic poet prolific lover gangster mastermind and murderous revolutionary culminating in the 1917 revolution simon sebag montefiore s bestselling biography radically alters our understanding of the gifted politician and fanatical marxist who shaped the soviet empire in his own brutal image this is the story of how stalin became stalin

the romanovs were the most successful dynasty of modern times ruling a sixth of the world s surface how did one family turn a war ruined principality into the world s greatest empire and how did they lose it all this is the intimate story of twenty tsars and tsarinas some touched by genius some by madness but all inspired by holy autocracy and imperial ambition montefiore s gripping chronicle reveals their secret world of unlimited power and ruthless empire building overshadowed by palace conspiracy family rivalries sexual decadence and wild extravagance and peopled by a cast of adventurers courtesans revolutionaries and poets written with dazzling literary flair drawing on new archival research the romanovs is at once an enthralling chronicle of triumph and tragedy love and death a universal study of power and an essential portrait of the empire that still defines russia today

new edition featuring updated introduction and new chapters the giant characters of

history from mozart to michelangelo shakespeare to einstein henry viii to hitler catherine the great to margaret thatcher jesus christ to genghis khan lived lives of astonishing drama and adventure debauchery and slaughter but they also formed our world and will shape our future in this eclectic and surprising collection of short and entertaining life stories simon sebag montefiore introduces his choice of kings empresses sultans and conquerors as well as prophets explorers artists actresses courtesans and psychopaths from the ancient times via crusades and world wars up to the 21st century this accessible history introduces readers to the titans who changed the world the characters we should all know and the stories we should never forget

the times history book of the year one of the economist s best books of the year a sunday times bestseller from the master storyteller and internationally bestselling author the story of humanity from prehistory to the present day told through the one thing all humans have in common family we begin with the footsteps of a family walking along a beach 950 000 years ago from here montefiore takes us on an exhilarating epic journey through the families that have shaped our world the caesars medicis and incas ottomans and mughals bonapartes habsburgs and zulus rothschilds rockefellers and krupps churchills kennedys castros nehrus pahlavis and kenyattas saudis kims and assads a rich cast of complex characters form the beating heart of the story some are well known leaders from alexander the great attila ivan the terrible and genghis khan to hitler thatcher obama putin and zelensky some are creative from socrates michelangelo and shakespeare to newton mozart balzac freud bowie and tim berners lee others are lesser known hongwu who began life as a beggar and founded the ming dynasty kamehameha conqueror of hawaii zenobia arab empress who defied rome king henry of haiti lady murasaki first female novelist sayyida al hurra moroccan pirate queen here are not just conquerors and queens but prophets charlatans actors gangsters artists scientists doctors tycoons lovers wives husbands and children this is world history on the most grand and intimate scale spanning centuries continents and cultures and linking grand themes of war migration plague religion medicine and technology to the people at the centre of the human drama as spellbinding as fiction the world captures the story of humankind in all its joy sorrow romance ingenuity and cruelty in a ground breaking single narrative that will forever shift the boundaries of what history can achieve

thoroughly updated and revised for 2024 jerusalem the biography is the history of the middle east through the lens of the holy city and the holy land from king david to the wars and chaos of today the history of jerusalem is the story of the world jerusalem is the universal city the capital of two peoples the shrine of three faiths the holy city and holy land are the battlefields for today s multifaceted conflicts and for believers the setting for judgement day and the apocalypse how did this small remote town become the holy city the centre of the world and now the key to peace in the middle east why is the holy land so important not just to the region and its many new players but to the wider world too drawing on new archives and a lifetime s study montefiore reveals this ever changing city and turbulent region through the wars love affairs and revelations of the kings empresses amirs sultans caliphs presidents autocrats imperialists and warlords poets prophets saints and rabbis conquerors and whores who created destroyed chronicled and believed in jerusalem and the holy land a classic of modern literature this is not only the epic story of 3 000 years of faith slaughter fanaticism co existence power and myth but also a freshly updated carefully balanced history of the middle east from king david to the new players and powers of the twenty first century from the birth of judaism christianity and islam to the israel palestine conflict and the mayhem of today this is how today s middle east was forged how the holy land became sacred and how jerusalem became jerusalem the only city that exists twice in heaven and on earth

winner of the british book awards history book of the year longlisted for the samuel johnson prize this thrilling biography of stalin and his entourage during the terrifying decades of his supreme power transforms our understanding of stalin as soviet dictator marxist leader and russian tsar based on groundbreaking research simon sebag montefiore reveals in captivating detail the fear and betrayal privilege and debauchery

family life and murderous cruelty of this secret world written with extraordinary narrative verve this magnificent feat of scholarly research has become a classic of modern history writing showing how stalin s triumphs and crimes were the product of his fanatical marxism and his gifted but flawed character this is an intimate portrait of a man as complicated and human as he was brutal and chilling

packed with fun fantasy and the sort of adventure guaranteed to have sticky little fingers hungrily turning the pages the mail on sunday life is an adventure anything in the world is possible by will and by luck with a moist carrot a wet nose and a slice of mad courage little shylo tawny tail is proud to call himself one of the royal rabbits of london a secret order who live under buckingham palace and fight evil across the world but high up in london s famous skyscraper the shard the horrible ratzis are plotting to cause chaos during a visit from the president of the united states and when the grand burrow is attacked and shylo is kidnapped it looks as though they might just manage it can shylo escape in time to save the day the hobbit meets fantastic mr fox meets watership down in this bestselling series from santa montefiore and simon sebag montefiore which proves even the smallest rabbit can be the biggest hero featuring illustrations throughout by award winning illustrator kate hindley praise for the royal rabbits of london the royal rabbits of london is sweet funny and beautifully illustrated the times enchanting kate hindley s illustrations are a treat the lady

philip roth meets evelyn waugh in a blackly comic portrayal of prep school adolescence motefiore creates a young anti hero as hilarious as just william as monstrous as stalin himself whose rite of passage shows what happens when a game of power grows into a dangerous obsession

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a new updated edition including new speeches from queen elizabeth ii and john boyega in the year 2020 this collection of extraordinary speeches ranges from ancient times to the twenty first century some are heroic and inspiring some diabolical and atrocious some are exquisite and poignant others cruel and chilling among others we hear from martin luther king michelle obama donald trump lincoln emmeline pankhurst chimamanda ngozi adichie alexander the great greta thunberg elizabeth i cromwell churchill jfk boudicca muhammad ali and malala voices of history shows how these unique speeches enlighten our past enrich our present and inspire and hold warnings for our future

winner of the political fiction book of the year 2014 by the author of the world wide bestsellers jerusalem and stalin the court of the red tsar and based on a true story a heart breaking addictively readable love story set in stalin s russia if your children were forced to testify against you what terrible secrets would they reveal moscow 1945 as stalin and his courtiers celebrate victory over hitler shots ring out on a nearby bridge a teenage boy and girl lie dead but this is no ordinary tragedy and these are no ordinary teenagers but the children of russia s most important leaders who attend the most exclusive school in moscow is it murder a suicide pact or a conspiracy against the state directed by stalin himself an investigation begins as children are arrested and forced to testify against their friends and their parents this terrifying witch hunt soon unveils illicit love affairs and family secrets in a hidden world where the smallest mistakes will be punished with death

includes new material written in history celebrates the great letters of world history creative culture and personal life acclaimed historian simon sebag montefiore selects

over one hundred letters from ancient times to the twenty first century some are noble and inspiring some despicable and unsettling some are exquisite works of literature others brutal coarse and frankly outrageous many are erotic others heartbreaking the writers vary from elizabeth i rameses the great and leonard cohen to emmeline pankhurst mandela stalin michelangelo suleiman the magnificent and unknown people in extraordinary circumstances from love letters to calls for liberation declarations of war to reflections on death in the colourful accessible style of a master storyteller montefiore shows why these letters are essential reading how they enlighten our past enrich the way we live now and illuminate tomorrow

jerusalem is the universal city the capital of two peoples the shrine of three faiths it is the prize of empires the site of judgement day and the battlefield of today s clash of civilizations from king david to barack obama from the birth of judaism christianity and islam to the israel palestine conflict this is the epic history of 3 000 years of faith slaughter fanaticism and coexistence how did this small remote town become the holy city the centre of the world and now the key to peace in the middle east in a gripping narrative simon sebag montefiore reveals this ever changing city in its many incarnations bringing every epoch and character blazingly to life jerusalem s biography is told through the wars love affairs and revelations of the men and women kings empresses prophets poets saints conquerors and whores who created destroyed chronicled and believed in jerusalem drawing on new archives current scholarship his own family papers and a lifetime s study montefiore illuminates the essence of sanctity and mysticism identity and empire in a unique chronicle of the city that many believe will be the setting for the apocalypse this is how jerusalem became jerusalem and the only city that exists twice in heaven and on earth

packed with fun fantasy and the sort of adventure guaranteed to have sticky little fingers hungrily turning the pages the mail on sunday the royal rabbits of london is sweet funny and beautifully illustrated the times the adventure continues for shylo and his royal rabbit friends in this charming series from bestselling authors santa montefiore and simon sebag montefiore and illustrator kate hindley which shows that even the smallest rabbit can be the biggest hero life is an adventure anything in the world is possible by will and by luck with a moist carrot a wet noise and a slice of mad courage now that shylo is a royal rabbit his life is full of adventure and new friends but he still misses his mother and family so he jumps at the chance to visit his home warren as soon as shylo arrives he finds something strange and dark going on a mysterious bunny called harlequin is on the farm attracting many followers with his crazy singing and loopy dancing but harlequin is also digging for the golden carrot which says an ancient legend will give him power over over all humans and animals harlequin believes it s buried somewhere on the farm then as more followers flock to the warren shylo wonders if the hunt for the golden carrot is a fun game or if harlequin is plotting world domination and when the quest turns deadly shylo calls in the royal rabbits can they stop power mad harlequin and who will find the carrot first

an epic adventure story set against the most awful war in history ridiculously good dan snow the black earth was already baking and the sun was just rising when they mounted their horses and rode across the grasslands towards the horizon on fire imprisoned in the gulags for a crime he did not commit benya golden joins a penal battalion made up of cossacks and convicts to fight the nazis he enrols in the russian cavalry and on a hot summer day in july 1942 he and his band of brothers are sent on a desperate mission behind enemy lines switching between benya s war in the grasslands of southern russia and stalin s plans in the kremlin between benya s intense affair with an italian nurse and a romance between stalin s daughter and a journalist also on the eastern front this is a sweeping story of passion bravery and human survival where personal betrayal is a constant companion and death just a heartbeat away praise for red sky at noon red sky at noon is an epic adventure story set against the backdrop of the most awful war in human history the master historian shape shifting into the brilliant novelist ridiculously good dan snow mythic and murderous violence in russia there are power drunk nazis and soviet traitors including a particularly memorable villain written with brio deep knowledge of its fascinating subject matter a deeply satisfying pageturner book of the month the times in this third volume of the moscow trilogy the fate of combatants and civilians is often harsh with his feel for vivid and immediate drama and impressive research the author evokes the extreme turbulence and violence impacting on individuals writing with passion montefiore makes the point that up against the huge forces of war the struggle for personal resolution can be tragic but never wasted daily mail the final instalment of montefiore s loosely connected moscow trilogy amidst the killing and the chaos a group of prisoners are offered a chance of redemption on a secret mission behind enemy lines on horseback montefiore has a keen sense of place and an eye of unexpected details switching between the frontline on the russian steppes and stalin in the kremlin this is an exciting fast paced adventure and a lament for love in dark and brutal times mail on sunday i devoured red sky at noon a heartstopping heartbreaking technicolour epic a grand homage to the russian masters babel grossman echoes of hemingway dostoevsky and a propulsive delight that is entirely montefiore s own gripping storytelling allied with intimate unsqueamish knowledge of russian history a special combination ad miller author of snowdrops the gripping final instalment of the moscow trilogy tells of a man wrongly imprisoned in the gulags and his fight for redemption love in dark times meticulously researched in this searing tale of love and war most moving is the redemptive relationship between a soldier and a nurse that blooms amid the brutality an homage to the author s favourite russian writers and the western masterpieces of larry mcmurtry cormac mccarthy and elmore leonard such influences pervade this atmospheric tale told in the author s distinct own voice observer

in heroes historian simon sebag montefiore presents his personal selection of the 101 most heroic figures from the pages of world history emperors and queens soldiers and statesmen religious leaders and philosophers rub shoulders with composers and poets scientists and explorers artists and storytellers from three millennia

new york times bestseller from the national bestselling author of stalin an epic history

on the grandest scale financial times about the most successful dynasty of modern times a family who created the world s greatest empire and then lost it all an essential addition to the library of anyone interested in russian history the new york times book review the romanovs ruled a sixth of the world s surface for three centuries how did one family turn a war ruined principality intoc the world s greatest empire and how did they lose it all this is the intimate story of twenty tsars and tsarinas some touched by genius some by madness but all inspired by holy autocracy and imperial ambition simon sebag montefiore s gripping chronicle reveals their secret world of unlimited power and ruthless empire building overshadowed by palace conspiracy family rivalries sexual decadence and wild extravagance drawing on new archival research montefiore delivers an enthralling epic of triumph and tragedy love and murder that is both a universal study of power and a portrait of empire that helps define russia today

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