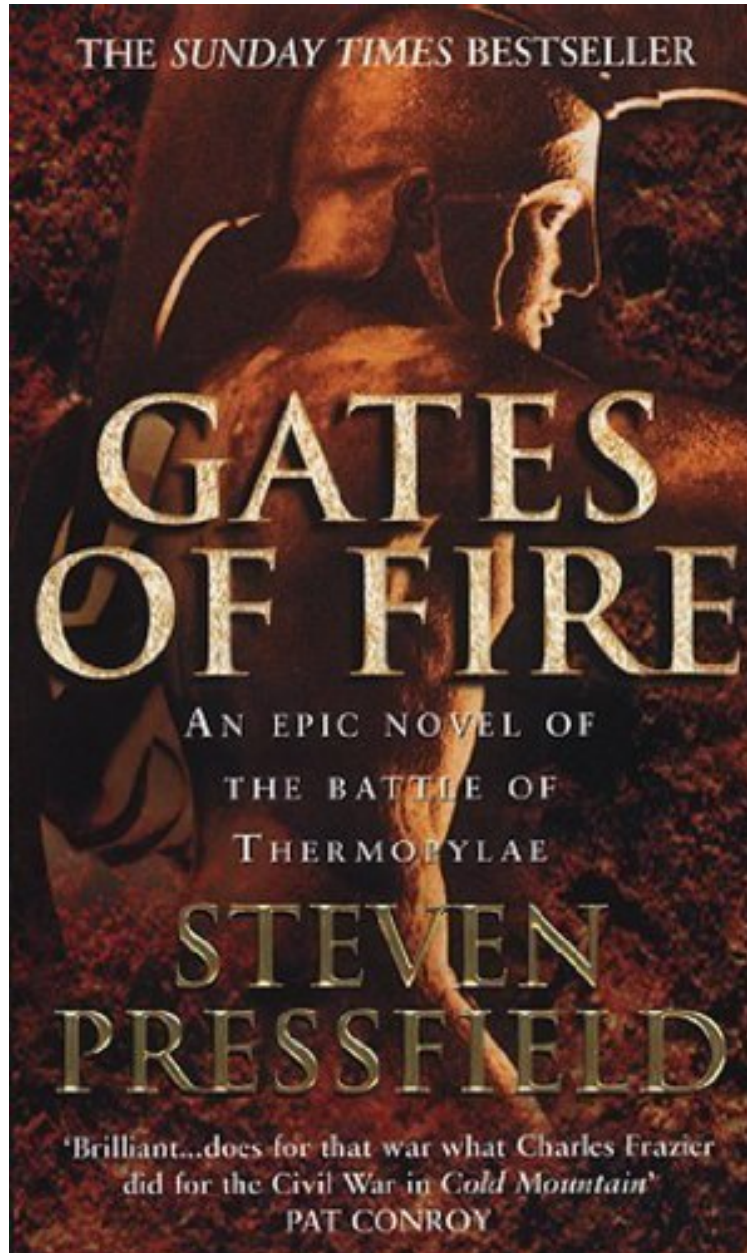


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Gates Of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae

Von Steven Pressfield

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Von Steven Pressfield : Gates Of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gates Of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of my favorite booksVon Giovanna BeckerThis is one of my favorite books. Steven Pressfield does a wonderful job at retelling the story of the 300 and the Battle of Thermopylae as well as the Spartan way of life. A truly wonderful read.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Think you're tough?Von Joseph HortonThe Spartans had two kings so that one could lead the army into battle, die with them if need be, and not leave Sparta ungoverned. King Leonidas himself, then in his *60's!,* expected his and exhorted his allies' troops to strike their tents and sleep outside unprotected, no matter the weather, so that they could use the tent material as bandages, this BEFORE the battle is even joined.That this book is based on fact sure changed the way I look at the world, at least as I relate to it. I find that little things bother me a lot less lately. I may be tough, but not that tough.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. As good as it gets in historical fiction!Von Le BoudinI chanced on the authors latest work, Tides of War, a few weeks ago. Enjoying that novel, I decided to try the authors earlier work, Gates of Fire. What a find!The insights into Spartan mores, the depiction of the characters, and in particular, the battle scenes, are among the most memorable I've come across. A long-time devotee of the "Sharpe's" series of novels, this was one of the few books whose narration and attention to detail equalled or exceeded those great tales.I've purchased this book as a gift, and recommended it to anyone I know who enjoys history, or simply a great rousing tale!

KurzbeschreibungGo tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, That here, obedient to their laws, we lie.Nearly 2,500 years ago, in 480BC, at a bleak pass in a far-flung corner of eastern Greece, three hundred Spartan warriors faced the army of Xerxes of Persia, a massive force rumoured to be over a million strong. Their orders were simple: to delay the enemy for as long as possible while the main Greek armies mobilized.For six days the Spartans held the invaders at bay. In the final hours - their shields broken, swords and spears shattered - they fought with their bare hands before being overwhelmed. It was battle that would become synonymous with extraordinary courage, heroism and self-sacrifice: it was Thermopylae.In Gates of Fire, Steven Pressfield tells the epic story of those legendary Spartans: the men and women who helped shaped our history and have themselves become as immortal as their gods..deGo tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, that here obedient to their laws we lie. Thus reads an ancient stone at Thermopylae in northern Greece, the site of one of the world's greatest battles for freedom. Here, in 480 B.C., on a narrow mountain pass above the crystalline Aegean, 300 Spartan knights and their allies faced the massive forces of Xerxes, King of Persia. From the start, there was no question but that the Spartans would perish. In Gates of Fire, however, Steven Pressfield makes their courageous defense--and eventual extinction--unbearably suspenseful. In the tradition of Mary Renault, this historical novel unfolds in flashback. Xeo, the sole Spartan survivor of Thermopylae, has been captured by the Persians, and Xerxes himself presses his young captive to reveal how his tiny cohort kept more than 100,000 Persians at bay for a week. Xeo, however, begins at the beginning, when his childhood home in northern Greece was overrun and he escaped to Sparta. There he is drafted into the elite Spartan guard and rigorously schooled in the art of war--an education brutal enough to destroy half the students, but (oddly enough) not without humor: "The more miserable the conditions, the more convulsing the jokes became, or at least that's how it seems," Xeo recalls. His companions in arms are Alexandros, a gentle boy who turns out to be the most courageous of all, and Rooster, an angry, half-Messenian youth. Pressfield's descriptions of war are breathtaking in their immediacy. They are also meticulously assembled out of physical detail and crisp, uncluttered metaphor: The forerank of the enemy collapsed immediately as the first shock hit it; the body-length shields seemed to implode rearward, their anchoring spikes rooted slinging from the earth like tent pins in a gale. The forerank archers were literally bowled off their feet, their wall-like shields caving in upon them like fortress redoubts under the assault of the ram.... The valor of the individual Medes was beyond question, but their light hacking blades were harmless as toys; against the massed wall of Spartan armor, they might as well have been defending themselves with reeds or fennel stalks. Alas, even this human barrier was bound to collapse, as we knew all along it would. "War is work, not mystery," Xeo laments. But Pressfield's epic seems to make the opposite argument: courage on this scale is not merely inspiring but ultimately mysterious. -- Marianne Painter.co.ukGo tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, that here obedient to their laws we lie. Thus reads an ancient stone at Thermopylae in northern Greece, the site of one of the world's greatest battles for freedom. Here, in 480 B.C., on a narrow mountain pass above the crystalline Aegean, 300 Spartan knights and their allies faced the massive forces of Xerxes, King of Persia. From the start, there was no question but that the Spartans would perish. In Gates of Fire, however, Steven Pressfield makes their courageous defence--and eventual extinction--unbearably suspenseful. In the tradition of Mary Renault, this historical novel unfolds in flashback. Xeo, the sole Spartan survivor of Thermopylae, has been captured by the Persians, and Xerxes himself presses his young captive to reveal how his tiny cohort kept more than 100,000 Persians at bay for a week. Xeo, however, begins at the beginning, when his childhood home in northern Greece was overrun and he escaped to Sparta. There he is drafted into the elite Spartan guard and rigorously schooled in the art of war--an education brutal enough to destroy half the students, but (oddly enough) not without humour: "The more miserable the conditions, the more convulsing the jokes became, or at least

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