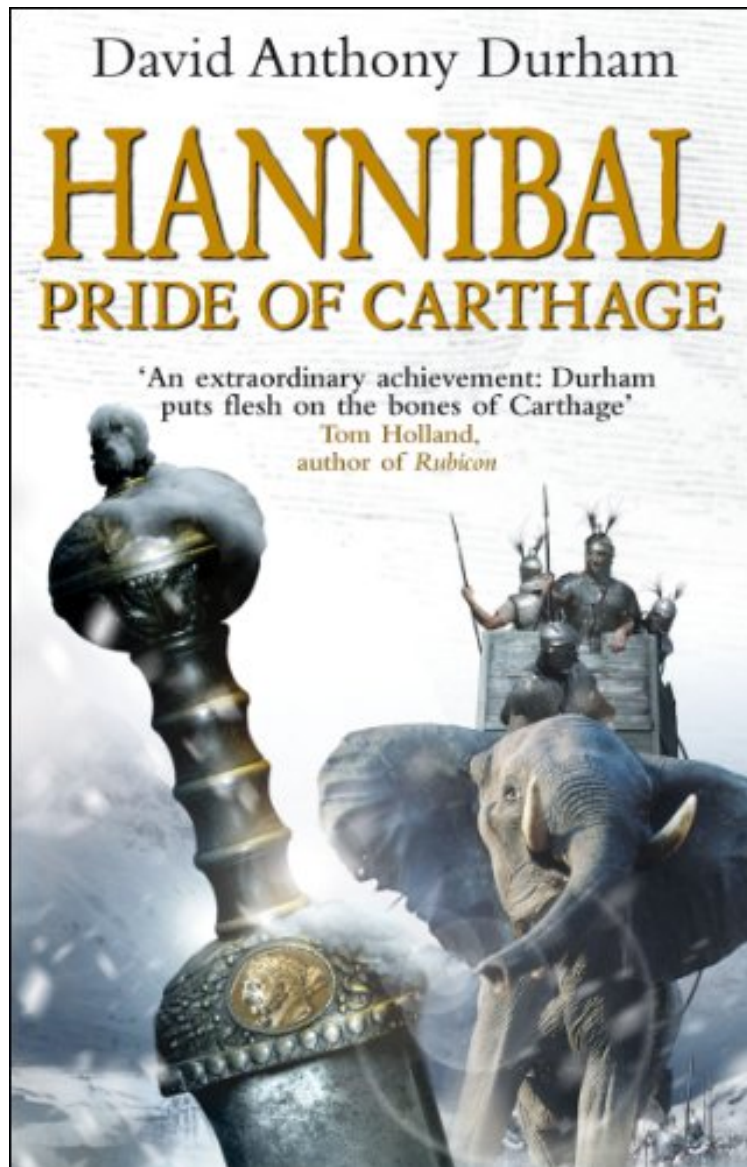


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Hannibal: Pride Of Carthage

Von David Anthony Durham

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Von David Anthony Durham : Hannibal: Pride Of Carthage before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hannibal: Pride Of Carthage:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great writing. Poor History.Von BluejayFor this novel, I could have picked anything between one and five stars. In the end, I decided to treat this as a novel, not as history (which is a stretch for a historical novel), and only dock two points. I'll voice some of my misgivings further below.The Good:Durham's writing is enjoyable, fast-paced where it needs to be,

witty, and overall the very, very strong point of this book. He inserts a few characters to illustrate the story from several angles - half-known types like Silenus and Hannibal's wife Imilce, or his sister and mother; his own characters like a Spanish soldier and a girl from Saguntum. All of these work really well, and the frequent changes of place and perspective keep the story on a fast-paced drive. He writes dialogue very well, making the characters truly come alive. And he manages the considerable feat of inserting a homosexual relationship that is entirely believable and down to earth without being in the least voyeuristic. If that's what you're looking for - a thrilling story set 2200 years ago, with bloody (well written!) battles that manage not to repeat themselves, and solid characterization, buy this book. If you like stories that add non-historical characters to augment the actual history, buy this book. If you're not bothered about reading "real" history but just want a great tale, buy this book. You can stop reading here if that's all you're after, but for me, who has been fascinated with the Carthaginian commander for over twenty-five years, this novel was hard to swallow, for the following reasons.

The Bad: In historical novels, there are always some things that are made up - of course. Who records classical toilet-breaks or small talk dialogues? That is absolutely not a problem. Still, most people when they pick up a historical novel expect something based on actual history, that could have been like this, though a few things are, of course, always made-up. In the case of this novel, if you actually know a bit about the life of Hannibal Barca (and the back cover actually says that the war lasted from 218 to 202!), you are in for a shock. Yes, the author says that he has taken liberties with history in the service of the story - but a war that lasted for seventeen years is vaporised down to five, major events turned around, just so that Hannibal can return from the war and be reunited with his seven-year-old son (who should have been nineteen at least, if, indeed, he had survived the war). The entire novel is based on the idea of Hannibal as husband and father, which results in a bit of rather mushy letter-writing, a lot of history-pimping, and in the end, in complete absurdity, as the novel ends when Hannibal is reunited with wife and child after his defeat in the battle of Zama, and the reader is left with no idea of what will become of this reunited little family. The well-read reader has a feeling the son will end up as a hostage in Rome or at the end of a spear, but Durham, in an epilogue, only gives us the bleak last years of Hannibal's life without mentioning his family again. Thus, the end of the novel is left hanging, and all the tampering with history doesn't even get you anywhere. All things considered, it is still a great read, rewarding if you're into historical or classical warfare, thrilling tales and some seriously good writing. But don't read it unless you're willing to put up with serious tamperings with history.

Kurzbeschreibung In ancient Rome, parents used to silence misbehaving children with the utterance 'Hannibal ad portas' (Hannibal is at the door). Such was the fear and awe that Hannibal Barca instilled... Told in arcing, epic technicolour, this is the story of one of the ancient world's most remarkable figures and the long, bloody conflict between the two 'superpowers' of the times - the Second Punic War (218-202BC) - that hinged on the genius, the ambition and the personal tragedies of Hannibal Barca of Carthage, whose military prowess became the stuff of legend, and Publius Scipio of Rome. History, of course, tells us the outcome: that Rome would be the victor, surviving to become a colossal imperial power, while Carthage would be all but erased from history. It was, however, a close run thing. And the world might have been a very different place had Hannibal succeeded in thwarting the might of Rome.

PRIDE OF CARTHAGE is a sweeping, thrilling story of ancient warfare, of armies traversing frozen snow-covered mountains, of battles won or lost by brilliant generals fighting in ingenious, cunning ways. And it's a story teeming with superbly drawn, memorable characters and players, historical and imagined - from Numidian horsemen and the Roman legions to the slaves and freemen from all corners of the ancient Mediterranean world... *Pressestimmen* "An extraordinary achievement: Durham puts flesh on the bones of Carthage in a way that no novelist has done since Flaubert wrote *Salammbô*" (TOM HOLLAND, author of *Rubicon*) "Wonderful... an historical novel that's not only deeply evocative of time and place, character and situation, but is also lyrically written, compellingly composed... a masterpiece" (JEFFREY LENT, author of *Lost Nation*) "Heady, richly textured... Durham weaves abundant psychological, military and political detail in this vivid account of one of the most romanticized periods of history" (PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (Starred)) "Magnificent... an old-fashioned historical yarn, it could hardly be bettered" (GOOD BOOK GUIDE) "Durham vividly captures the frenzy of ancient warfare... *Pride of Carthage* is a skillfully structured and often gripping novel" (NEW YORK TIMES)

Werbetext Epic, panoramic historical novel about Hannibal and the brutal, bloody Second Punic War.