



# Ghost on the Throne: The Death of Alexander the Great and the Bloody Fight for His Empire

*By James Romm*

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## **Ghost on the Throne: The Death of Alexander the Great and the Bloody Fight for His Empire** By James Romm

When Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-two, his empire stretched from the Adriatic Sea in the west all the way to modern-day India in the east. In an unusual compromise, his two heirs—a mentally damaged half brother, Philip III, and an infant son, Alexander IV, born after his death—were jointly granted the kingship. But six of Alexander’s Macedonian generals, spurred by their own thirst for power and the legend that Alexander bequeathed his rule “to the strongest,” fought to gain supremacy. Perhaps their most fascinating and conniving adversary was Alexander’s former Greek secretary, Eumenes, now a general himself, who would be the determining factor in the precarious fortunes of the royal family. James Romm, professor of classics at Bard College, brings to life the cutthroat competition and the struggle for control of the Greek world’s greatest empire.

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**Ghost on the Throne: The Death of Alexander the Great and the Bloody Fight for His Empire** By James Romm **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Romm charts all the reversals and alliances with the skill of a great detective." —*Los Angeles Times*

"Thrilling. . . . But *Ghost on the Throne* is [also] a careful work of fine scholarship." —*The New Criterion*

"Offering well-paced and often-dramatic narratives, up-to-date research, and thorough documentation. . . . [Romm] lends a vividness and passion to his narrative." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"Romm is a gifted storyteller as well as a respected scholar." —*Choice*

"[Romm has] mastered the knack that all classicists should have: He can get inside the sources and bring them alive. . . . This is history every reader should know, and this is exactly how it should be written." —*Open Letters Monthly*

"Romm's saga of the tumultuous years immediately following Alexander's relatively sudden death . . . becomes something of a thriller: [Who] will survive until the next chapter in this roller coaster of an imperial succession story?" —*History Book Club*

"Romm . . . is one of a few historians worldwide who can be numbered among the Alexander experts." —*Westfair Online*

"Written more as a thriller than a history tome." —*The Daily Freeman*

"Fast-paced and absorbing . . . Captivating . . . A sterling account of a little discussed era in ancient history." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Lively. . . . [A] scholarly but colorful account of the toxic fallout from the untimely demise of a continent-striding conqueror. . . . Romm paints a vivid portrait of ancient politics." —*Kirkus Reviews*

#### From the Back Cover

"What became of Alexander's stunning accomplishments and his vision of a vast, unified empire? *Ghost on the Throne* illuminates the dark mysteries and personal motivations that swirled in the turbulent, little-studied era ushered in by Alexander's untimely death in Babylon. In Romm's gripping, detailed account, we watch the tragic drama unfold, as the young leader's closest companions become vicious rivals, shredding Alexander's grand dream amid blood and paranoia."

--Adrienne Mayor, National Book Award nominee and author of *The Poison King: The Life of Mithradates, Rome's Worst Enemy*

#### About the Author

**James Romm** is James H. Ottaway Jr. Professor of Classics at Bard College. He has received fellowships

from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. He has written two books on the ancient Greek world, *The Edges of the Earth in Ancient Thought* and *Herodotus*, and edited Arrian's *Campaigns of Alexander*, part of the distinguished Landmark series of works by ancient Greek historians.

[www.jamesromm.com](http://www.jamesromm.com)

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#### **Ronald Hill:**

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