

图书基本信息

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作者：徐志英 编

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章节摘录

版权页：插图： Cleopatra lived with Caesar in Rome for some time until the brutal assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC. She fled back to Egypt and faced the uncertain fate of her and her nation as well. An astute politician as she was, Cleopatra began to find alliance among the new Roman leaders. Mark Antony, a devout follower of Julius Caesar who vowed to avenge his murder attracted her attention. When Antony summoned Cleopatra to meet him and finance an important war he was going to wage, she played hard to get. First she ignored his summon and then spared no efforts to impress and fascinate him with the riches of Egypt. It was said that she arrived in a huge gold-plated barge, decorated with purple sails. She sat beneath a purple canopy, with several young boys fanning her and the group was accompanied by beautiful music from the flute and harp. Soon after their meeting, their legendary love began and later they got married. In fact, they were not only romantic lovers but also aggressive political partners. Cleopatra supported Antony's territorial expansion with the abundance of Egypt, while he in return guaranteed her safety both inside and outside of Egypt, and he even attempted to put some Roman territories under her domain, which caused uproar in Rome. For Roman citizens, the Roman territory should not be given to a foreign queen and they accused Cleopatra of corrupting their great leader with wealth and a sensual life. Antony's major political rival, the adopted son of Julius Caesar, Octavian had long viewed Caesarion as a major threat to his power and was further provoked when Antony proclaimed Caesarion the rightful heir to Julius Caesar. He exploited the Romans' hatred against Cleopatra to tarnish Antony's public image and then labeled him as an enemy of Rome.

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