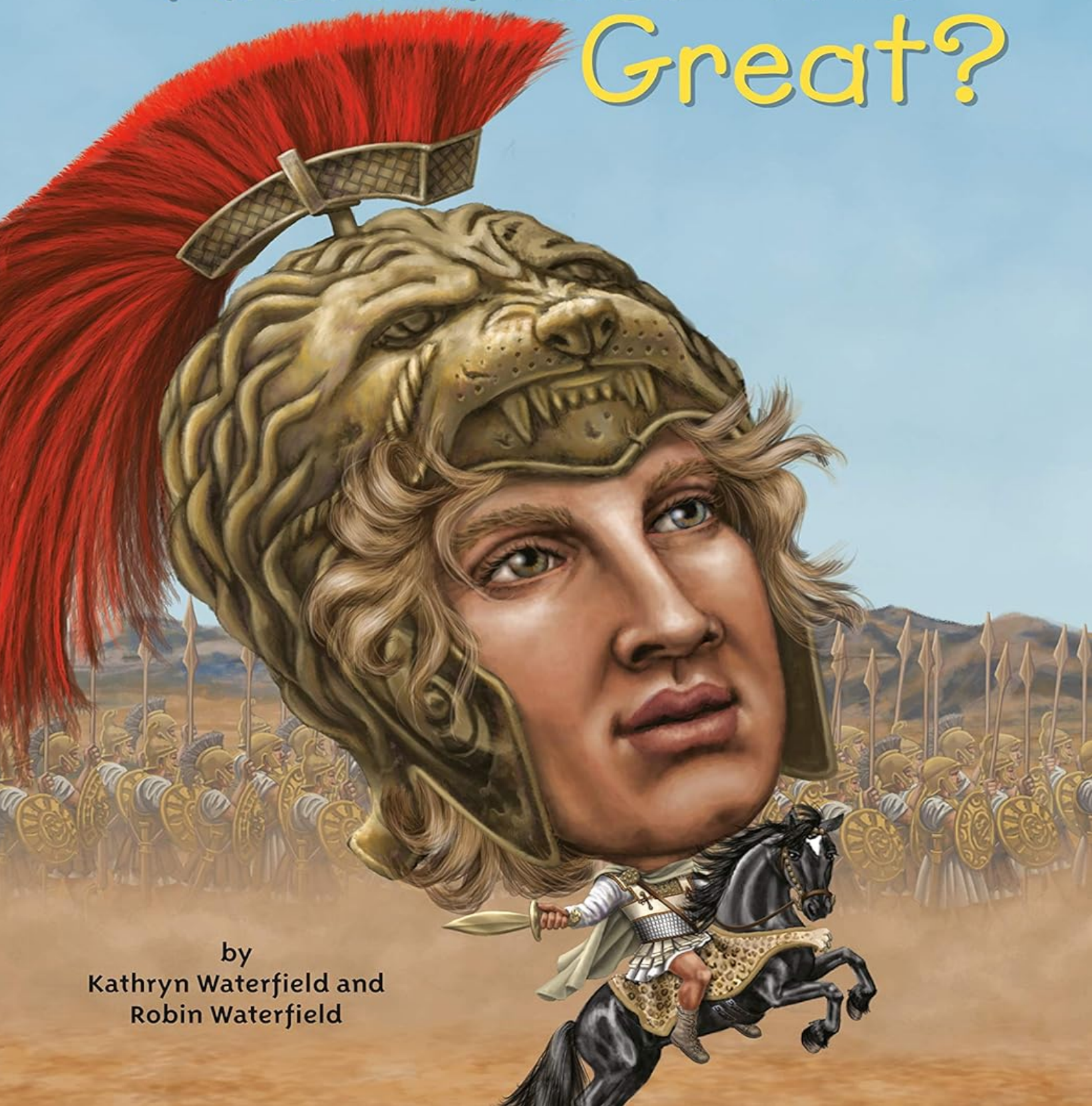


The #1 New York Times Best-Selling Series



# Who Was Alexander the Great?



by  
Kathryn Waterfield and  
Robin Waterfield

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by Kathryn Waterfield and Robin Waterfield  
illustrated by Andrew Thomson

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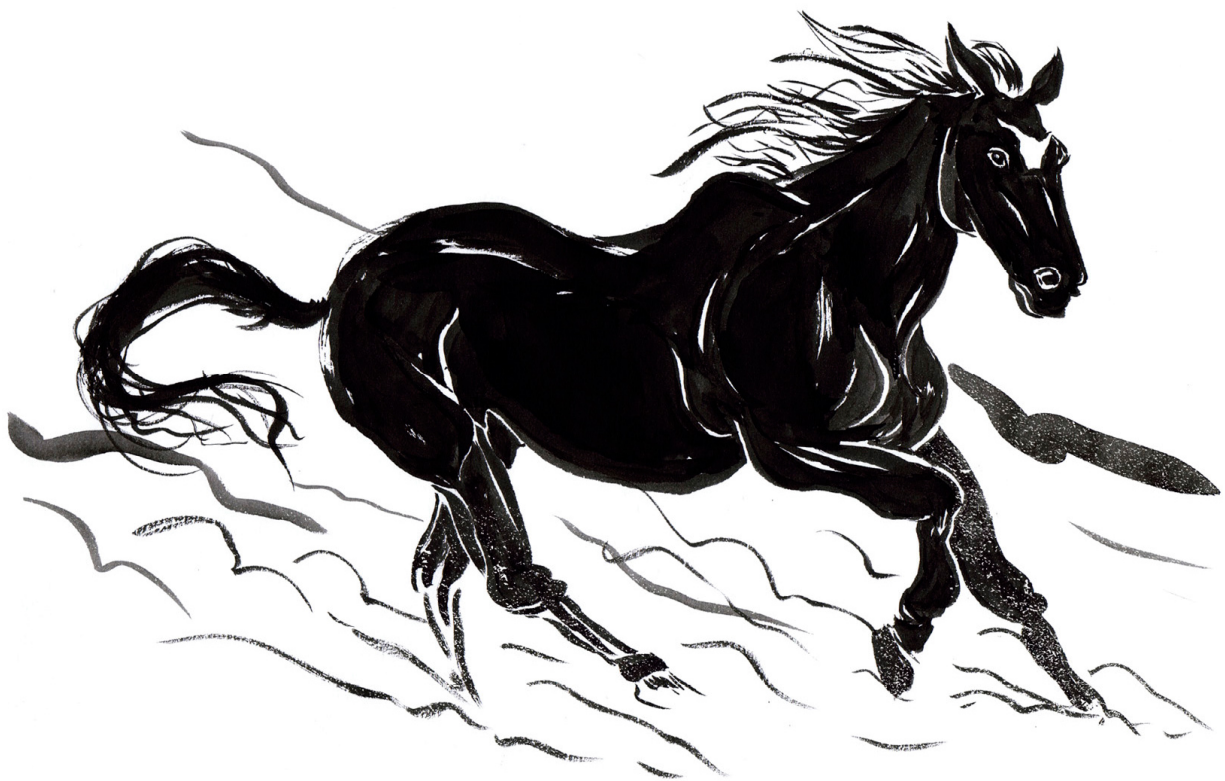
# Who Was Alexander the Great?

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Pella, capital city of the kingdom of Macedon

It is a special day for King Philip's son. His name is Alexander, and he is twelve. He is old enough now to go to the horse market with his father and the other men.



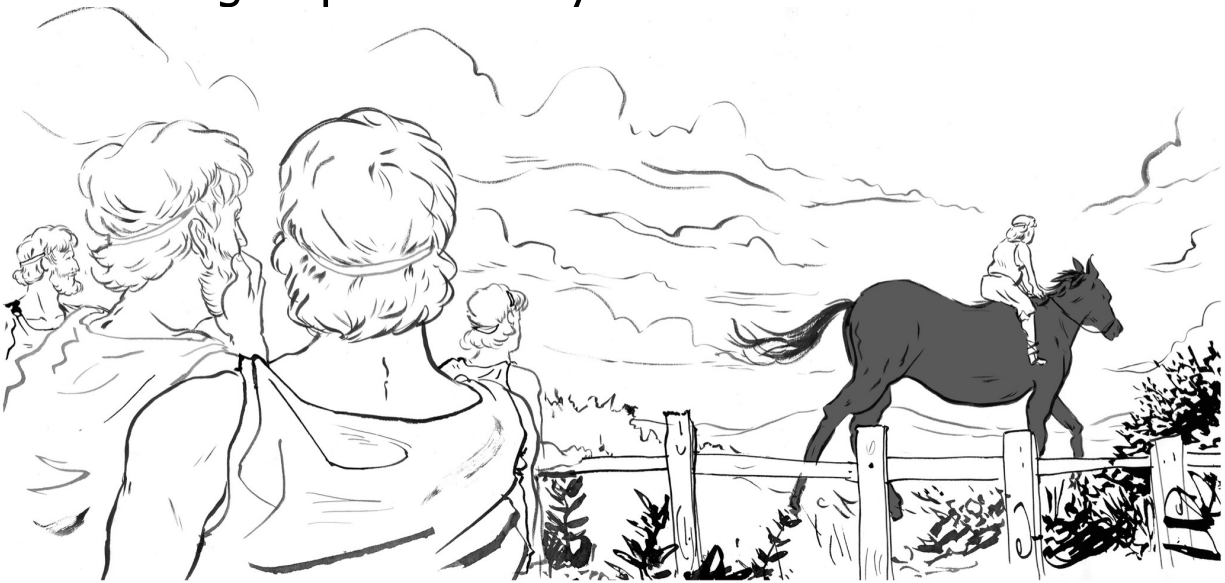


At the market a man walks up to Philip. He claims to have the best horse in the world, one fit for a king. He is an amazing horse, sleek and strong. He is black all over, except for a white mark on his forehead. The mark is shaped like the head of an ox. That is why the horse's name is Bucephalas (say: Boo-KEH-fa-las). In Greek, *Bucephalas* means *Ox-head*.

Bucephalas is a very difficult horse to ride. Even King Philip cannot mount him. So he refuses to buy the horse and turns to leave. But young Alexander insists that *he* can ride the great horse. He wants the horse for himself.

Philip and the others don't take Alexander seriously. He is too young to ride such a dangerous horse. Alexander, however, won't take no for an answer. So the king lets him try. Maybe that will teach his stubborn son a lesson!

Is Alexander going to make a fool of himself in front of his father? No! He has noticed something that his father has not. The beautiful horse is afraid of his shadow. So Alexander walks slowly up to Bucephalas. Gently, he takes hold of the lead rope. He turns the horse into the sun, stroking his neck and whispering to him. Bucephalas cannot see his shadow now. The horse calms down. Alexander springs lightly onto its back and gallops off. Everyone is amazed!



This is Alexander's first conquest. Suddenly King Philip sees his son with new eyes. He tells Alexander that he needs to find a much bigger kingdom to rule. Macedon is too small for Alexander!

King Philip is right. Riding Bucephalas, Alexander goes on to conquer the known world. He leads thousands of soldiers thousands of miles across Asia. He becomes the richest and most powerful king alive. He builds many new cities throughout his empire. He does all this in just thirteen years! No wonder he becomes known as Alexander the Great.



