

## **Alexandria: The Last Night of Cleopatra**

Peter Stothard



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When Peter Stothard found himself stranded in the Egyptian city of Alexandria in the winter of 2010, he set out to explore a nation on the brink of revolution. Guided by two native Egyptians, Stothard reawakens his life long obsession with the life and myth of Cleopatra while exploring the city and country she once ruled.

Blending aspects of memoir, history, and travel narrative into an elegant and unique tapestry, Stothard uses the sights and sounds of the ancient city to reconnect with the experiences that shaped his life. Melancholy yet often humorous, *Alexandria* probingly deconstructs the enigma of modern Egypt?with its uneasy mix of classical touchstones and increasingly volatile Middle Eastern politics?and offers a first–hand glimpse into the fracturing state just before the Tahrir Square uprising and the start of the Arab Spring.

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