



## The Road to Alexander

*Jennifer Macaire*

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## **The Road to Alexander** Jennifer Macaire

After winning a prestigious award, Ashley is chosen to travel through time and interview a historical figure. Choosing her childhood hero Alexander the Great, she is sent back in time for less than a day. He mistakes her for Persephone, goddess of the dead, and kidnaps her, stranding her in his own time. What follows, after she awakes under the pomegranate tree, is a hilarious, mind-bending tale of a modern woman immersed in the ancient throes of sex, love, quite a bit of vino, war, death and ever so much more.

## **The Road to Alexander Details**

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Author : Jennifer Macaire

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## From Reader Review The Road to Alexander for online ebook

### **Beth Sponzilli says**

I liked this OK. The time travel part I liked but it was all too easy and lacked depth. There was a lot of historical content about Alexander the Great, and the geography, people etc. I thought it could have been better. I don't think I would continue the series.

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### **Lynda Warnock says**

I have to admit that when I read the synopsis I was kind of skeptical about this book. We all know the story of Alexander the Great – and how he wanted to rule the world. I have always been fascinated with ancient history but mixing that with a time travel journalist from 3,000 years in the future -- well I really didn't know how it would work out. But I have to tell you that A Time for Alexander was absolutely phenomenal. Jennifer Macaire did such an excellent job of bringing the two together that you would never know how different their worlds were.

Ashley was born to older parents who never wanted her and managed to marry her off at 16. Her husband was a wretchedly abusive man and she divorced him as soon as she could. She put herself through college with her divorce settlement, so that she could become the journalist she always dreamed of being. Working towards meeting the one true love her entire life, Alexander the Great. When she won the coveted prize to be this year's one journalist to travel back in time to conduct her interview it took all she could to remain unemotional, worried all the time that somehow this one chance would be taken from her.

Alexander is enthralled with Ashley right away, he knows she's different and believes her a god...and short of telling him the truth she doesn't know how to dissuade him of that. Soon everyone in camp thinks of her as Persephone and they accept her "mistakes."

Ashley's feelings grow into true love and she and Alexander marry. But even with all her happiness she lives in fear that he will find out who she is, and that if she changes any part of history that she and everything she has changed will be erased. Through the multitude of ups and downs the one constant is the love that Ashley and Alexander feel for each other.

When on the final page I realized that this was just the first book out of seven and that this story does not yet come to an end I couldn't have been happier. The second book is called Heroes in the Dust and is also available now through Calderwood Books.

There is no way I can leave this story unfinished and I will have to continue on with the series as soon as I can. It may take seven books to tell this version of history, but no history book can compare to the beautiful story of these two people.

If you are a fan of Diana Gabaldon and her Outlander Series then you will love this story. The same heart wrenching trials and tribulations that she puts her characters through happen within this gripping tale.

A Time for Alexander is a wonderful moving saga. Really more of a historical piece than a romance there is more than enough heat between Alexander and Ashley to keep the pages smoldering. Macaire's story ties

you up in knots and hangs you out to dry. There wasn't a piece of this book that didn't fit, it kept a quick pace, the dialogue was witty and entertaining and the beautiful descriptions of ancient lands entice you into accompanying them on Alexander's quest to conquer the world.

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### **Paula Houseman says**

#### **'THE ROAD TO ALEXANDER' IS A RIVETING READ!!**

Jennifer Macaire has a way with words! Her novel, the richly descriptive *The Road to Alexander*, sweeps you up and carries you along as it tantalises the senses.

Macaire's protagonist Ashley is a futuristic journalist who wins a prestigious award that sees her time-travel back to 333 BC to interview a figure of her choice. Alexander the Great has it. Ashley has long idolised and idealised this hero, so much so that no man in her present-day existence can measure up.

But things go very wrong. Or, very right. Because she's mistaken for a goddess, and her intended 20-hour stay is looking to be extended indefinitely, she has the opportunity to get up-close-and-personal with Alexander, in every which way! A dream come true? Yes and no. Life is made up of dreams and nightmares. And we see the lot in this book—love, war, romance, death, sex, vengeance, courage, brutality, tragedy, comedy ...

Ashley, with her insecurities and her defences, could well be everywoman. Something that might be characteristic of many stories, you might say?

**But what really sets Macaire's story apart from the rest is its symbolism that speaks to everywoman (and everyman).**

There's a sense that Ashley's desire to return to this particular era to meet the great man, and ultimately win the approval of her peers, runs deeper than that; a suggestion that it's as much a journey back into her own psyche to retrieve innate aspects of herself that she's shut down in the interest of survival. (Who of us can't relate to this?) And what better place and time to help her do this than one not bound by moralism, political correctness or inhibitions—everyone wore their heart on their sleeves (when they had sleeves. Walking around naked occasionally was the norm!)?

The characters in this book are endearing: Aristotle is adorable. And watch out for sexy Plexis, the irrepressible Barsine, and Olympias, Alexander's wicked and inappropriate mother! The great man himself isn't presented as a stereotypical, cardboard cut-out hero. He's macho for sure, but he's not afraid to show his vulnerability, which makes it safe for Ashley to open her heart. And you can't help but cheer her on as she does.

I highly recommend *The Road to Alexander* to anyone needing to be reminded of what 'real' looks like in relation to today's artificiality and superficiality.

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### **Matt McAvoy says**

"The Road to Alexander" is one of the strangest books I have ever been asked to review, in that it is possibly the most contrary. Ordinarily, I love books which cross genres, if done well, and this book certainly does that. It doesn't take itself too seriously – at least, surely it can't – and seems, for the most part, to have its tongue buried very firmly in its cheek.

The premise is an interesting one: a time-travelling journalist from the future returns to the 4th century BC, to interview Alexander the Great, and subsequently falls in love with him. Firstly, to say that Jennifer

Macaire is a very entertaining and adept writer – her style simple yet educated - who tells her story at a pleasing pace; although this book is perhaps a touch too long, it is highly engaging, and I found it difficult to put down at times, telling myself: just one more chapter... The story itself seems perhaps incidental – this is foremost a factual(ish) journey through the ancient world of Alexander, which is by far the most alluring aspect of it. It would have been nice to spend a little more time in the future, at the start of this book, if just to establish the context and emphasize its sci-fi/historical cross-genre premise, which I actually like.

But here is where, I'm afraid, I need to stand up and say that it should have stayed at that. Jennifer has done a fantastic amount of research into this book, and its historical insight is fascinating - she is clearly extremely hard-working and conscientious, and very vividly paints her historical scenes and set-pieces, enough to make you feel that you are actually there. Unfortunately, she has managed to dumb down what would be by rights a tremendous 5-star book, to a cringeworthy erotic romance, with a feel of contemporary melodrama – I am sorry to say that this decision has harmed her book significantly. “The Road to Alexander” now comes across as little more than pure erotic fantasy on the part of its author; this is a huge shame, and a massive detriment. The sex scenes seem particularly inappropriate, and perhaps even disrespectful, when considering they are real people she is writing about; the modern style of dialogue – with ancient Persians entertaining conversations about teenagers and hormones – seems absurd. The main character herself, Ashley, is infuriating and strangely flippant about her situation, which raises eyebrows in the reader; she approaches love like a teenager herself, and I did find her to be immature and puerile.

Jennifer's writing itself is well crafted and proficient. Personally, I like sentences a little longer, and would have controlled the pace with better indentations; I think a final proofread would certainly be a good idea, as many of the commas are misplaced or absent where they should be. Other than this nit-picking, though, she is an impressive author.

But, needless to say, I feel very strongly that this could have been a much better book, which paid greater respect to the huge amount of effort Jennifer clearly put into it, as well as the characters within. I feel she has not used her creative licence particularly appropriately, and it is my opinion that this book would be improved considerably if she were to do away with the sex, erotica and melodrama entirely – there are enough words that she could do this quite comfortably, and even seamlessly. The quality is undeniable, but the content just all wrong.

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## **Georgen Charnes says**

This book is filled with lots of very interesting historical details. Little things that you rarely read about, like what the Greeks used for soap, how they dressed, Alexander's vision. The author obviously did a lot of research and it really added to the book.

However, there were some serious flaws that made the book less enjoyable. Putting aside that it's very unlikely that our time traveling heroine would have met, fell in love with, and married Alexander the Great, putting aside that she didn't seem to mind that he slept with men and his other wives, putting aside the sex scenes (all of which was silly), I think there were three things I couldn't get past to really like this book. First, that Ashley supposedly went to Tempus University and had been preparing for this trip for years, and didn't know what a dryad is. Or anything about the religious beliefs of the time. She didn't know what nymphs or muses were either. Really? I know about them, you know about them. Wouldn't she? Second, there are lots of long passages which try to wax philosophical about love. "If you love one person, you love the world."

Whatever; it was a stretch and caused a lot of skimming. And third, I really didn't like Ashley. She was really pretty passive, always fainting and getting nosebleeds because she was upset. Nobody in the book liked her either except the two men she was sleeping with.

While the concept of the book was interesting, I don't think I'll be reading the rest.

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### **Jena Henry says**

Now here's a new occupation that might intrigue you. How would you like to be a Time Journalist? Three hundred years from now, you could have this exciting occupation. You would have the opportunity to travel back in time and interview a real person from history. You will be well-prepared, with a detailed and accurate costume and appearance, and a chip will be installed in your brain so you can speak and understand the language of the time. The actual journey through time and back is a bit rough, but what an experience! Due to the scientific constraints, you can only spend 20 hours in the past with your interview subject.

And so this is how our heroine, Ashley, finds herself in 300 B. C. Persia searching for the historical figure that she has read about, studied and loved- Alexander the Great! She begins to walk in the hot air and soon comes to the enormous army encampment. She is able to locate Alexander and spend time with him. "I looked at the man I had read about three thousand years in the future, and he smiled at me."

Ashley is immediately attracted to his amazing looks and his overwhelming presence and authority. Twenty hours won't be enough time to be with him! Well, thanks to an unforeseen problem, Ashley doesn't leave at the appointed time and she must spend the rest of her life stuck in the ancient time. She goes from big city life and all the amenities of the future, to life with a donkey, a tent, a large army and Alexander.

History geeks- this book will entrance you. The author blends the sights, and sounds of daily life with historical places and people. It's fun to experience what we now know as ancient ruins, when they were first built. I was glad that the book didn't get too caught up in the details of time travel, or the difficulties of life as a modern person in a vastly different time, but rather sought to explore the passion and feelings of Ancient Greece. Exciting moments mix with everyday life in this fluid and engaging story.

I will point out that the love between Alexander and Ashley is portrayed vividly and frequently. Also, the minutiae of daily life, while fascinating, does slow down the plot. Readers who enjoy history and strong characters will enjoy this story. This book is the first in what is now a six-part series.

"This was the secret behind his success. Alexander knew no limits and he made everyone around him believe in the impossible."

Thanks to Rachel's Random Resources for a review copy.

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### **Jessica Rachow says**

The Road to Alexander has an interesting premise, and it's what made me want to read it. Time travel is always fun, and this novel proved to be unique.

Jennifer Macaire did a wonderful job making the reader feel as though they traveled back to ancient Greece with Ashley. I loved the factual characters, I loved the humor, and I loved the romance aspect too.

If you're looking for something different, The Road to Alexander is one I recommend checking out!!

\* I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.\*

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### **Erika Messer says**

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I started reading these books - I just knew that I had to check them out because I am a HUGE fan of this type of historical fiction and Alexander the Great is a very elusive character in history. I definitely did not expect a time-travel series, but it's almost like you just naturally start reading and it's over 3600 years since Alexander was alive. Immediately we discover that the main character of the books is in a Time-Travel university, and she is going back in time in order to interview the amazing Alexander the Great. And of course they ask her WHY HIM? And I feel the same way - he is a very interesting character in history that we don't know a lot about. We also find out that she has been through a horrible marriage with a husband who was physically abusive, so I wondered how that might play into the series of books. She obviously is now doing something to better her life and is very fierce in her convictions to meet Alexander and interview him. I saw a strong survivor in Ashley, and I couldn't wait to read more about her and her journey to 330 BC.

Since there are 5 books, I am going to do just a short review on each of them, but lump all of the reviews into one for the purposes of the blog tour. So within the first 3 pages Ashley is transported back in time and I had to laugh because she immediately feels uncomfortable in the Egyptian clothing as they are scratchy and you have to imagine that living 3600 years in the future, her normal clothing has to be pretty darned comfy! I do love the way the author was able to research this time period and from what I know about it, she did a great job of using 330 BC as the setting for these books. It felt real to me, and I truly enjoy that out of historical fiction. Besides that, when the author describes the scenery and especially Alexander's tent, it is rich and beautiful, even though we know back then they didn't have all of the nice things we have today. I WANTED to be there.

The one thing I noticed was that Ashley called herself an "oneirocritic" which seemed to be perfectly normal for even Alexander, whom she walks up to and just starts talking with him. She says her first impression is that he is "dangerous". But she doesn't seem scared, she is more intrigued - and the first thing we really notice is that he is SEXY and he is lustful. So throw that into the mix and it brings a whole new spin on this series - we are not told what could happen if she engages with him and what it could mean for the time travel world. We soon find out that somehow she was "kidnapped" in a sense and is not able to return home, and she is in love with Alexander or Iskander as she calls him, and he wants to marry her. What will all this mean?? He begins to really open up to Ashley and tells her all about his early life, his mother and sister, and everything she really wants to know and more. But is it REAL? Is he fooling her? And why did he have to kidnap her? I was thinking all of these things while reading the first book and wondering if he had good intentions towards her and really did love her.

I definitely found the first book very interesting and it was sexy, funny, and a really great time-travelling story. I couldn't wait after that to get onto the second book and find out what happened next. I have to give this book 4 stars, it was very good!

\*\*I received a free copy to read

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## Tom Williams says

Ashley comes from the future where they have time travel. She has the chance to travel back in time to meet one famous character and interview him. She has always had a crush on Alexander the Great so she chooses to go back to meet her hero. She is supposed to spend just twenty hours in the past but something goes wrong and she finds herself trapped in 333 BC. Fortunately Alexander has taken a shine to her and she finds herself travelling with his army, first as his concubine and later as one of his several wives.

I found this one of those books that was easy to read, but easy to put down for quite long periods. In part, this is because the story, though full of incident, is pretty much summed up in the first paragraph of this review. Alexander and Ashley have explicit and amazing sex, she travels with the army, something happens, Alexander and Ashley have explicit and amazing sex, they travel on, something happens... You get the picture.

Part of the problem, for me, was Ashley's character. She is, by her own account, an ice maiden. Apart from her ability to fall madly in love with Alexander (did I mention the explicit and amazing sex?), and, later, Alexander's best friend/lover, Ashley finds human relationships difficult. She is hampered, too, by the fact that she can't open up honestly to anybody as no one must ever know that she is from the future. It is only when she finally admits the truth to Alexander and lets her emotions show in a tearful outburst that I begin to warm to her as a character, but unfortunately this is the climax of the book. It does bode well for the second novel in what is set to be quite a long series.

While Ashley is cold and aloof, Alexander is very emotional and very open (cue lots of explicit and amazing etc etc). He is also spectacularly good at everything and almost godlike. Macaire does make him a spectacularly bad singer, which we are reminded of from time to time to give him his single human frailty, but he remains a difficult figure to identify with, even if he's not about to win Pop Idol any time soon.

This isn't really a story about Ashley at all. It's a story about Alexander the Great and his astonishing achievements. Like Ashley, Macaire seems more than a little in love with Alexander and she certainly knows a lot about him. She claims, in an end-note, not to be a historian, but she's the only blogger I've read who can post in Ancient Greek and it's clear that she knows her stuff. Enormous quantities of historical detail are incorporated in a thoroughly readable way. Everything from military tactics to medicine to diet to feminine hygiene products is covered in an easy prose style. Macaire's prose does carry you along, free from any jarring notes.

Macaire makes her period vibrant and alive. If you are interested in Alexander the Great, you will find much to interest you in this book. If you like historical fiction because you enjoy learning about daily life in the past, this is definitely a rewarding read. There is also no doubt that if Macaire ever wants to branch out into erotic fiction, she will be up there with the best of them, so that's another potential attraction.

Overall, it's clear that I have mixed feelings about The Road to Alexander but I did enjoy it. If you're into well researched historical novels, you'll probably enjoy it too. I suspect that now that the characters are established and Ashley has begun to open up as a human being (and even Alexander is becoming a more rounded character), the second book in the series will be even better than this one.

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### **Caroline Venables says**

I really enjoyed this book. Although at first I found Ashley hard to identify with, I really warmed to her through the book.

The book follows Ashley, who lives in 2089. She wins a highly sought prize to travel back in time to interview a person of her choice. Ashley has always Alexander the Great so naturally decides to visit him in the past.

The rules are clear, you can't alter time or they will eliminate you and wipe you from history. You have less than 24 hours in the past before you get returned, if you don't make your collection point, will be left in the past and die.

Ashley is aware of all these rules and agrees to abide by them, but fate has other ideas. Alexander believes her to be a goddess that needs saving and his actions leave Ashley stranded in the past where she has to learn to survive.

This story has made me want to go and research Alexander the Great to learn more about him and the time.

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### **Angela Verdenius says**

This isn't something I'd normally read, but it proved to be very interesting and very different. A time-travelling journalist who has been intrigued with Alexander the Great and works towards being chosen to be the one to travel back through time to 'interview' him, without upsetting history or letting on who she is. I feel as though I stepped into the ancient Greek world and could see everything that was happening to the characters. It is certainly different in that the heroine isn't the only wife to Alexander, and indeed becomes friends with one of the other wives. The relationship between Alexander and Ashley spreads across the ancient world of Greece and battles as well as political power. It brings to light many historical people mentioned in different texts (okay, so I went to Wikipedia, all right? I had to check out Alexander the Great myself!) There is also mention of his affairs with other men and women.

An excellent job of twining a romance with many historical facts and figures, and also showing the difference between two different cultures and times. If you're looking for something different, factual in many areas, historical and an enthralling story, this might be right up your alley! This author definitely knows her history.

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### **Yvonne says**

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My Thoughts:

This is the story of Ashley and how she travels back in time to meet one of her heroes, Alexander the Great, to interview him. Alexander unwittingly prevents Ashley from returning back to her time and she is left

stranded in history and decides to embrace the predicament in which she finds herself.

Now I did wonder how I would get on this story, time travel and ancient history. I really should not wonder when it comes to reading as this author did an absolutely cracking job with the story and completely won me over. I will mention that the author stated in her notes at the end, that she has moved somethings and people around to help with her story. I am aware of something from the days of Alexander but I am not au fait with much of it so I just enjoyed the story as the author saw it.

I would definitely say this is a historical romance as well as being a historical fiction read. It is about two people from very different times, backgrounds, interests, and experiences. The author has managed to inject some humorous aspects into the story that had me smirking, Ashley uses phrases and words that would not have been around at that time, and it gets some of the historical characters scratching their heads. For them, it adds to the mystery behind who or what they believe her to be.

I really liked the way a lot of historical facts has been mixed in with the fiction it made reading details much more interesting. Essentially turning a list of dates, people and places into something a lot lighter reading. There are mentions of battles, gods, religion, philosophy and the beliefs of the time. There is so much from the daily life, health, hygiene pretty much everything you would expect and a lot I didn't even think about.

While Ashley is the main part of the story, her focus is on Alexander, the man, and the legendary historical figure. By the end of the story, I realised that this author really knows her stuff and has an obvious love of this time period, as it really does show in her writing. I came away knowing so much more than when I started this book, that is a big bonus for me.

I did mention it had a romantic aspect to it. Ashley initially is a little aloof and comes across as cold, where as Alexander is definitely a hot blooded male... that's all I am saying at this point, it does make for some very interesting reading! As the story develops Ashley then seems to thaw a little and others start to see a change in her, she becomes more emotionally engaged.

This is the first book in a series and I cannot wait to see what comes next. This is a really good book and one that I think would definitely appeal to readers of historical fiction and romance readers. It is one I would definitely recommend.

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### **Jane Balke Andersen says**

My feelings are very mixed, perhaps as mixed up as this book. It's time travel with a modern woman going back 3000 years to interview Alexander the Great, but getting stuck there. Most of the book is a made up romance between the journalist and Alexander with lots of romance, sex and crying (it felt like it). There's hardly any time in the present and not much about the time travel. Lots of historical stuff about Alexander, some not accurate the author tells us at the end...well it is fiction afterall. I feel like this extremely long book should have either been a straight historical romance or a sci-fi time travel story or a book about Alexander. I'm unsatisfied with it and probably will not read on.

I may however, find a good book on Alexander the Great if possible seeing not much is known about him.

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### **Kirsty &#x1f4da; &#x1f4d6; ❤? says**

This turned out to be quite an interesting read about time travel and love. I wasn't sure about Ashley to start with but by the end of the book I was really rooting for her. I loved the polygamous angle with her being in love with both Alexander and Plexis but then all they all seemed to be in love with about 3 other people so you have to pay attention to keep up. I liked this though, it made sure I paid attention to the story.

This is a book 1 and I am interested in seeing how the story plays out. It mentions that if you change history bad things happen but then babies happen that were not part of the original history and so far hasn't affected anything so I'm intrigued to see what happens there.

For me one of the things i enjoyed most was the lack of war. It's covered, you can't not write a story about Alexander and miss out wars but thankfully the battles mostly take place off-screen (off-book?) and Ashley mostly plays nursemaid and offers an empathetic angle.

Once I got into it the book moved really fast and a lot happens in what feels like a short space of time but is actually a bit of skipping over several weeks of marching (yay) to focus on core relationships. Overall I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to the next one.

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### **robyn dixon says**

Overall, interesting. I did like the history. Of course, I am assuming that it is accurate. I think this particular time travel premise is a little....well, I was going to say silly, but I'll just say restrictive — and maybe that's the point — it's not a "time travel" book; it's a historical romance (with a modern heroine).

I think Ashley's lucky happenstance — meeting Alexander immediately and IMMEDIATELY being seduced by him was disingenuous...but the premise of the book.

It is well written and there are others in the series; however, they all are about Alexander and Ashley and, apparently, war. So it is unlikely that I read any others.

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