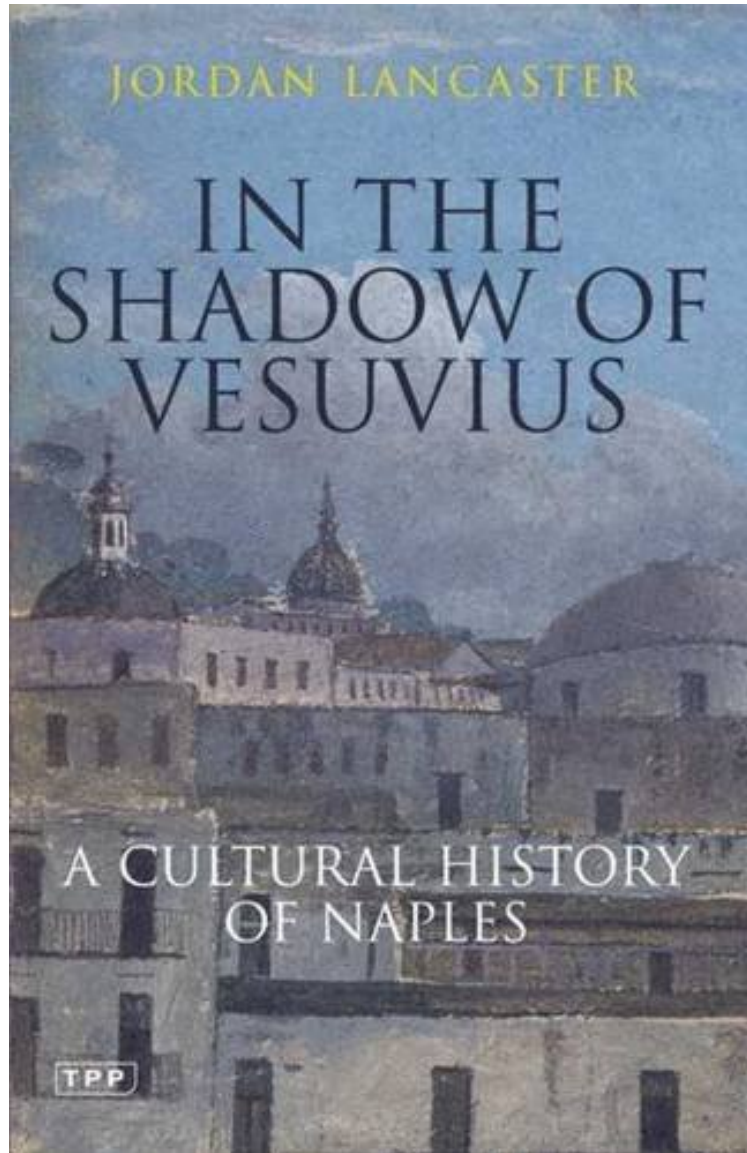


(Get free) In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Cultural History of Naples

In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Cultural History of Naples

Jordan Lancaster

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Jordan Lancaster : In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Cultural History of Naples before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Cultural History of Naples:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An excellent historical overviewBy FlippyThe history of Naples is essential to understanding the history of Italy, even the history of Modern Europe. Naples was once 'the' Italian city to visit for 18th and 19th century European visitors on the Grand Tour.Jordan Lancaster is a gifted writer and leads the

reader through the different time periods of Neapolitan history from the Greeks to the Romans to the Normans, the Spanish, the Austrians to Mussolini and the moderns. Without Naples and its influence we would never have the poetry of Virgil or Horace or the cuisine we have associated with Italy, namely pasta - cucina povera. Lancaster writes with ease as well as enthusiasm. You can tell she loves the city and culture she is writing about. She gives a great overview without bombarding the reader with too many dates. For those that want to dig deeper, she has a list of recommended reading. What I enjoyed best about this book is that she focused on the many men and women who made Naples what it is today. She relates the story of Giovanni Boccaccio meeting his muse, Lady Fiammetta at the Church of San Lorenzo. It's these little moments that make history so pleasurable. If you're saturated with yet another travel book on the romance of Tuscany (basically Harlequin for non-fiction readers) or sick of Venice, reading *In the Shadow of Vesuvius* might get you thinking about making a trip further south. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you've been to Naples, this is a return trip, if you haven't this will make you want to visit. By Roger If you love Naples, as Jordan Lancaster obviously does, "*In the Shadow of Vesuvius*" will deepen your appreciation for this beautiful, complex and ancient city. Seldom does a book bring so many aspects of a place to life, but this one did for me. Most enjoyable. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History made readable By Nancy Lincoln This book will assist those interested in not just the history of the city of Naples but also the surrounding area which has drawn so many visitors over the ages. The lure of the Amalfi coast today is no less than it was in classical times. Read the book and you will understand why.

From its origins in Homer's *Odyssey* and its founding nearly 3,000 years ago, Naples has long attracted travellers, artists and foreign rulers--from the visitors of the Grand Tour to Goethe, Nelson, Dickens and Neruda. The stunning beauty of its natural setting coupled with the charms of its colorful past and lively present--from the ruins of Pompeii to the glittering performances of the San Carlo opera house--continue to seduce all those who explore Naples today. *In the Shadow of Vesuvius* is a sparkling portrait of the city--the definitive companion for anyone seeking to delve beneath its surface.

"This is a study not only of Pompeii but of the whole Golfo di Napoli, which Jordan Lancaster feels to be her spiritual home. She takes us from Hercules and Odysseus to Virgil and Spike Milligan . . . take Lancaster as a handbook." -- Spectator