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Opening extract from
Hard Nuts of History: Kings and Queens

Written by
Tracey Turner

Published by
Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

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**HARD NUTS
OF HISTORY**
**Kings and
Queens**



TRACEY TURNER

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMIE LENMAN



A & C BLACK
AN IMPRINT OF BLOOMSBURY
LONDON NEW DELHI NEW YORK SYDNEY



First published 2015 by

A & C Black, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP

www.bloomsbury.com

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ISBN 978-1-4729-1092-9

A CIP catalogue for this book is available from the British Library.

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Printed in China by Leo Paper Products, Heshan, Guangdong

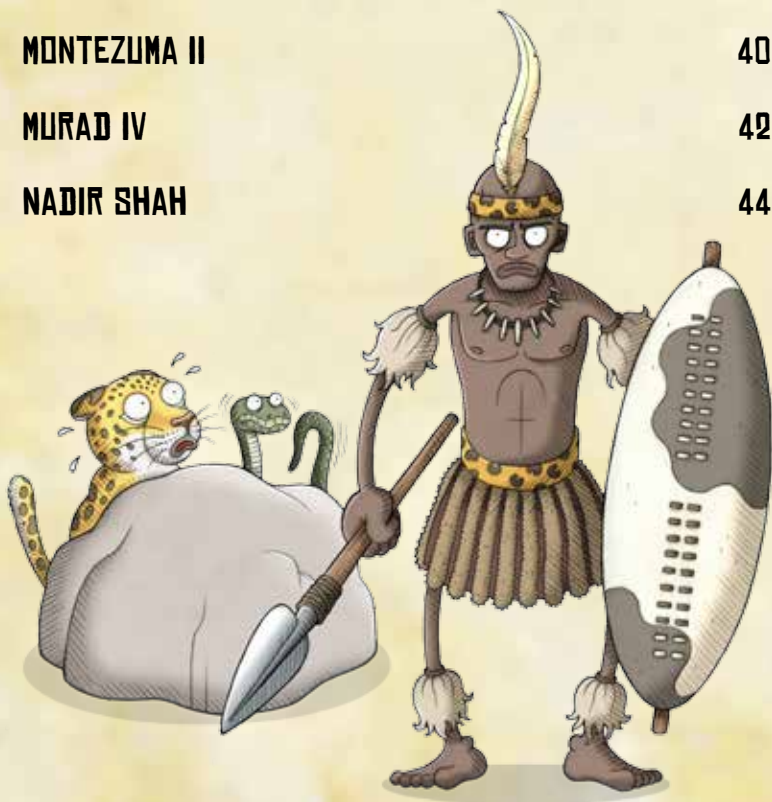
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INTRODUCTION

This book contains some of the hardest kings and queens ever, from terrifying tsars to savage sultans. Some of them were power-crazed tyrants, some were axe-wielding warriors, and some were very strange indeed. But all of them were as hard as nails.

FIND OUT ABOUT . . .

- Horrible human sacrifice
- Brave runaway slaves
- Tremendous elephant-mounted armies
- Head-chopping, eye-gouging and burning at the stake

If you've ever wanted to be worshipped by millions, command a Persian fleet, or become Empress of China, read on. Follow the hard nuts through the plains of central India, into the Aztec capital city, and across the Pacific Ocean by canoe.

As well as discovering stories of courage and cunning, you might be in for a few surprises. Did you know that King Henry VIII had more than 50,000 heads chopped off? Or that Thutmose III tried to have his predecessor's name deleted from history.

You're about to meet some of the toughest kings and queens in history . . .

Plus take the quiz on page 28 and find out how well you know your monarch nicknames!



QUEEN ARTEMISIA OF HALICARNASSUS

Queen Artemisia was a brave and clever sea commander in the Persian War with Greece.



**HARD NUT
RATING: 8.3**

PERSIAN OVERLORDS

Artemisia was Queen of Halicarnassus, which was part of the massive and mighty Persian Empire. Artemisia was tough, but she wasn't stupid: she was a fierce warrior queen and she nearly changed the course of history.

COUNCIL OF WAR

The powerful Persian Emperor Xerxes I, was very keen on expanding his empire into Greece and had already made one unsuccessful attempt at grabbing Greece before he turned to Artemisia and the other commanders of the Persian fleet in 480 BC. Artemisia was unusual among the Persian commanders in two ways: first, she was a woman. Second, she was the only commander who advised Xerxes against his planned sea battle. She thought it was too risky, and would be better to wait. Xerxes listened and praised Artemisia for her wise advice. Then he completely ignored it and gave the order to set sail.

THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS

Artemisia was in command of five ships at the Battle of Salamis. She fought bravely and with ruthless cunning, sometimes flying the Greek flag to confuse her enemies.



At one point in the battle her ship became trapped, with a Persian ship blocking her escape route – so she rammed the ship and sank it in order to get away. Xerxes didn't seem to mind, though. He thought Artemisia was his best commander and it is reported he said, "My men have become women and my women men," (which was the way a lot of people thought in those days). However, despite Artemisia's best efforts, the Persians were completely trounced.

PERSIANS GO HOME

Xerxes consulted his commanders on whether he should leave some of the Persian fleet in Greece, and this time he listened to Artemisia: they all went home. If he'd taken her advice in the first place, maybe the Persians would have conquered Greece and changed the course of history. The Greeks, meanwhile, were very happy they'd won, but absolutely furious that a woman had commanded ships in a battle against their fleet. They offered a reward for her capture, but no one ever succeeded.

