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The Hero Schliemann: The Dreamer Who Dug For Troy



Synopsis

Archaeologist? Mythmaker? Crook? This engaging, illustrated biography of Heinrich Schliemann — a nineteenth-century romantic who most believe did find the ancient city of Troy — reveals him to be a fascinating mixture of all three. From the time Heinrich Schliemann was a boy — or so he said — he knew he was destined to dig for lost cities and find buried treasure. And if Schliemann had his way, history books would honor him to this day as one of the greatest archaeologists who ever lived. But a little digging into the life of Schliemann himself reveals that this nineteenth-century self-made man had a funny habit of taking liberties with the truth. Like the famous character of his hero, the poet Homer, Schliemann was a crafty fellow and an inventor of stories, a traveler who had been shipwrecked and stranded and somehow survived. And Heinrich Schliemann was determined to become a legend like Homer — but in his own time. Following this larger-than-life character from his poor childhood in Germany to his achievement of wealth as a merchant in Russia, from his first haphazard dig for the city of Ilium to his final years living in a pseudo "Palace of Troy," this engrossing tale paints a portrait of contradictions — a man at once stingy and lavishly generous, a scholar both shrewd and reckless, a speaker of twenty-two languages and a health fanatic addicted to cold sea baths. Laura Amy Schlitz weaves historical facts among Schliemann's fanciful recollections, while Robert Byrd's illustrations evoke his life and times in wonderful detail. Along the way, *THE HERO SCHLIEMANN* gives young readers food for discussion about how history sometimes comes to be written — and how it sometimes needs to be changed.

Book Information

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Works > Mystery & Wonders

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

" The true measure of a career is to be able to be content, even proud, that you succeeded through your own endeavors without leaving a trail of casualties in your wake."Alan Greenspan-Dishonesty-----The "... hot headed, touchy, and dreamy..."[pg. 61] egomaniac, "Storyteller, archaeologist, and crook -- Heinrich Schliemann left his mark upon the world."[72] thanks to his vivid "... imagination changed archaeology forever."[pg.72] through misrepresentation of facts which paid off handsomely. "I have had more luck than foresight in my life," he admitted. It could also be said that he made his own luck."[72.] "... his enemies simply could not stand him. They were disgusted by his romanticism, his boasting, his hysterical excitement... a shrill and vulgar little man."[pg. 56.]He was offensive:-- with regard to the meeting of his second wife "The Engastromenos family was excited by the prospect of having a millionaire in the family..." [pg. 38]. "When Heinrich spoke to her alone he asked her point-blank, 'Why do you wish to marry me?' Sophia replied, 'Because my parents have told me that you are a rich man!"'[pg. 38]. Infuriated, he pondered that "truth hurts."In the marriage, the much younger Sophia was wise in thought "...Henry was a genius and that geniuses were not quite like other people."-- Instead of carefully sifting through the mound, layer by layer, he decided to dig out vast trenches -- rather as if he were removing slices from a cake... And so he dug, violently and impatiently. Frank Calvert advised him to proceed with care, to sift through what he was throwing away, but Heinrich was not a cautious man. He wacked away at the mound as if it were a pinata.

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