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#### **16. THE REST OF THE STORY**

History tells us that Alexander's remains were brought to Alexandria, Egypt where they were placed in a sarcophagus. The Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, viewed the remains, circa 30 B.C. This illustration, by Showmer, depicts the artist's impression of that event. Click on the image for a better view.

After Alexander's untimely death, what happened to those closest to him? What of his wives and children? His mother? Ptolemy? Some managed to survive; others were not so fortunate. Alexander's empire thus ended as it began - with much death.

• Olympias - Protecting the legacy of her son as best she could, she waged war to assure the succession of Alexander's infant son, Alexander IV. She was <u>killed</u> by <u>Cassander</u>, Alexander's former friend, in 316.

• Philip Arridaeus - Alexander's mentally deficient half-brother became king after Alexander died, although his regent <u>Perdiccas</u> ruled the empire. Olympias ordered the <u>execution</u> of her step-son on December 25, 317.

• <u>Barsine</u> - Never married to Alexander, Barsine was the mother of Alexander's first child, a son named Heracles. Both were murdered by (or before) the year 309 B.C.

• Roxane - The woman with whom Alexander fell in love "at sight" (according to the ancient writer Arrian of Nicomedia whose history, <u>Anabasis of Alexander</u>, is a <u>key source</u> of information regarding Alexander) was from Bactria. After her husband's death, Roxane thought the <u>deal</u> she made would give her son, Alexander IV, the throne when he was old enough (in 305). That agreement, however, merely insured their deaths. Cassander order the executions of both.

• Statira - At Alexander's death, his Persian wife <u>Statira</u> (daughter of Darius III and also called Barsine) was a threat to Roxane. (She must have been expecting a child.) Consistent with the treatment of other such threats, Roxane had Statira murdered in 320.

# THE REST OF THE STORY



• Ptolemy - Alexander's friend not only became governor of Egypt after Alexander died, he began <u>a dynasty</u> of Pharaohs which lasted until Rome annexed Egypt in 31 BC. Unusual for antiquity, the Ptolemaic Empire also permitted women to rule. <u>Cleopatra</u>, of Julius Caesar/Marc Anthony fame, was a descendant of Ptolemy.

Alexander, the man with whom we began <u>this journey</u>, remains famous thousands of years after his death. His body, once carefully preserved for all time and still available "for show" in 360 A.D., was likely <u>lost</u> during late-empire riots in Alexandria.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-REST-OF-THE-STORY-Alexander-the-Great">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-REST-OF-THE-STORY-Alexander-the-Great</a>

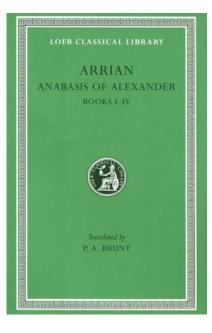
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<u>Cleopatra</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

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