



# 24 HOURS IN ANCIENT ATHENS

A DAY IN THE LIFE  
OF THE PEOPLE  
WHO LIVED THERE

PHILIP MATYSZAK

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It is 416 BC, a tenuous peace holds and Athens is at the peak of its power. Its political and military might are feared throughout the ancient world while it pushes the boundaries of social, literary and philosophical experimentation. From the author of *24 Hours in Ancient Rome*, now spend 24 hours with the ancient Athenians and see the city through their eyes as it teeters on the edge of the fateful Peloponnesian war that would end its golden age.

Accessible, popular history at its best, *24 Hours in Ancient Athens* reveals what the lives of 24 Athenians from all levels of society were really like. From the slave-girl to the councilman, the fish-seller to the naval commander, the housewife to the hoplite, get to know the real Athens by spending an hour in their company.

Our everyday Athenians also come into contact with great historical figures. For instance, we get a sneak peek at Socrates belly-dancing at a dinner party or the young Plato preparing to beat up an opponent at wrestling.

'You don't get 'great people' without a society that supports and generates them. In my opinion historians spend too much time looking at important individuals [...] I enjoy introducing everyday people from the ancient world to modern readers' - Philip Matyszak interviewed in *All About History*

Dr Philip Matyszak has a doctorate from the University of Oxford and currently works as a tutor for Madingley Hall Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge, teaching courses on Classical history. He has written a number of bestselling titles on the ancient world including *Ancient Rome on Five Denarii a Day* and *Ancient Athens on Five Drachmas a Day*. In 2017 he wrote *24 Hours in Ancient Rome* for Michael O'Mara Books. He lives in British Columbia, Canada.

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