



## 24 Hours in Ancient Athens A Day in the Life of the People Who Lived There

Philip Matyszak

### Keynote

During the course of a day we meet 24 ancient Athenians from all levels of society – from the slave-girl to the councilman, the fish-seller to the naval commander, the housewife to the hoplite – and get to know what the real Athens was like by spending an hour in their company.

### Description

**Spend 24 hours with the ancient Athenians. See the city through their eyes as it teeters on the edge of the fateful war that would end its golden age.**

Athens, 416 BC. A tenuous peace holds. The city-state's political and military might are feared throughout the ancient world; it pushes the boundaries of social, literary and philosophical experimentation in an era when it has a greater concentration of geniuses per capita than at any other time in human history. Yet even geniuses go to the bathroom, argue with their spouse and enjoy a drink with friends.

Few of the city's other inhabitants enjoy the benefits of such a civilized society, though – as multicultural and progressive as Athens can be, many are barred from citizenship. No, for the average person, life is about making ends meet, whether that be selling fish, guarding the temple or smuggling lucrative Greek figs.

During the course of a day we meet 24 Athenians from all strata of society – from the slave-girl to the councilman, the vase painter to the naval commander, the housewife to the hoplite – and get to know what the real Athens was like by spending an hour in their company. We encounter a different one of these characters every chapter, with each chapter forming an hour in the life of the ancient city. We also get to spy on the daily doings of notable Athenians through the eyes of regular people as the city hovers on the brink of the fateful war that will destroy its golden age.

### Sales Points

- Get to know ancient Athens through the eyes of the people who lived there
- Accessible, popular history at its best, revealing what the real lives of 24 Athenians from all levels of society were really like
- Athens had a host of great historical figures all living in the same place at the same time. In this book, our everyday Athenians meet Socrates, Plato, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Hippocrates, Euripides, Hippodamus, Xenophon, Thucydides, Critias and Alcibiades
- Follows on from *24 Hours in Ancient Rome* and *24 Hours in Ancient Egypt*, which have sold in over 10 languages

### Reviews

- 'Accessible, informative, enjoyable' - *All About History*

### Author Biography

Dr Philip Matyszak has a PhD from the University of Oxford and currently works as a tutor for Madingley Hall Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge, teaching a course on Ancient Rome. 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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