



## The Historical David: The Real Life of an Invented Hero

By Baden, Joel.

HarperOne. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. We know the biblical David as the brave young man who defeated Goliath, the first king of a united Israel, the composer of the beloved Psalms, and as the founder of the Davidic bloodline and an ancestor to Jesus. And yet, as Joel Baden reveals here, the flesh-and-blood man was far more complex and interesting than the mythical king. A scholar of the Old Testament and the author of several works on the Hebrew Bible, Baden employs deep textual analysis to uncover a historical David whose ambition and ruthless pursuit of power has been painstakingly and successfully downplayed, to be replaced by the portrait of a heroic king."Reading between and behind the lines of the biblical text and its silences, Baden gives an engaging reconstruction of who the true David may have been. This is a brilliant synthesis, with some unexpected and even daring twists of interpretation."Michael Coogan 310.

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