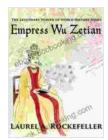
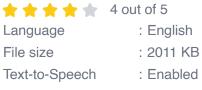
# **Empress Wu Zetian: The Legendary Woman of World History**



### **Empress Wu Zetian (The Legendary Women of World**

History Book 5) by Laurel A. Rockefeller



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Empress Wu Zetian was the only woman to rule China as emperor. Her reign, from 690 to 705 CE, was marked by political intrigue, military conquest, and cultural achievements. Wu Zetian's life story is a fascinating one, and she remains one of the most iconic figures in Chinese history.

#### **Early Life**

Wu Zetian was born in 624 CE into a noble family. Her father was a high-ranking official in the Tang dynasty court. Wu Zetian was a聰明伶俐、博覽 群書 girl, and she quickly became a favorite of her father. At the age of 14, she was chosen to be a concubine to Emperor Taizong.

#### Life in the Palace

Wu Zetian's life in the palace was not easy. She was constantly competing with other concubines for the emperor's attention. However, Wu Zetian was a shrewd and ambitious woman, and she quickly rose through the ranks. In 655 CE, she was made empress.

#### **Reign as Empress**

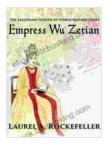
When Emperor Taizong died in 683 CE, Wu Zetian's son, Emperor Gaozong, ascended to the throne. Wu Zetian continued to play a major role in government, and she eventually became co-ruler with her son. In 690 CE, Wu Zetian deposed her son and declared herself emperor.

Wu Zetian's reign was a time of great change in China. She reformed the government, expanded the empire, and promoted Buddhism. She was also a patron of the arts, and she commissioned many great works of art and literature.

#### Legacy

Wu Zetian's reign was a controversial one. She was criticized for her ruthlessness and ambition. However, she was also a brilliant ruler who made significant contributions to China. She is remembered as one of the most powerful and influential women in history.

Empress Wu Zetian was a remarkable woman who left a lasting legacy on China. She was the only woman to rule China as emperor, and she made significant contributions to the country's politics, culture, and military. Wu Zetian's life story is an inspiring one, and she remains a role model for women around the world.



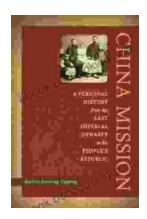
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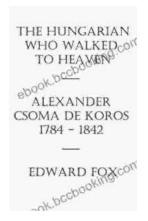
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