



Day of the Caesars

Simon Scarrow

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The Roman army will stop at nothing to defeat rebellion in its territories, though treachery ever threatens the security of the Empire. The 16th novel in Simon Scarrow's bestselling *Eagles of the Empire* series, not to be missed by readers of Conn Iggulden and Bernard Cornwell. 'A new book in Simon Scarrow's long-running series about the Roman army is always a joy' *The Times*

Veteran soldiers of the Roman army Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro have fought side by side in battles, skirmishes and sieges across the vast Roman Empire, from Britannia to Egypt, from Spain to Syria. Proven to be heroic in battle and loyal to the death to each other and to their men, they are selected for the most dangerous missions, and given command of troops whose lives as well as the fate of the Empire depend on their military might and vision. As the reign of Emperor Claudius ends, turmoil in Rome spreads unease across the globe, giving heart to the enemy. There could be no more deadly time to be far from home, even for the army's most experienced officers...

Day of the Caesars Details

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Author : Simon Scarrow

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From Reader Review Day of the Caesars for online ebook

Simon says

I'm the first to admit that my favourites in this series have seen the boys out there on campaign sticking it to some horde of hairy-arsed barbarians – especially us Brits! The cloak and dagger stuff I'm not normally not quite so keen on but this one just got me from the start. How Cato hasn't quite lost his marbles completely is hard to fathom because Scarrow suddenly seems to have taken an extreme dislike to him and no amount of torture for him personally seems too much. In this we see more of the development of Cato as a man, a harder edge, a more cynical side coming to the fore. But he's still a genuine hero and a man of honour. Macro, well age is catching up on him but he's still Macro and we wouldn't have him any other way! Blunt, direct, violent but has he finally met his match in a woman?

Our heroes are pitched into a Rome heaving with unrest following the death of the Emperor and Nero's ascension to the purple. The whole place is seething with plot and counter plot and ready to erupt at any moment. Cato and Macro just want to be soldiers but Cato in particular is too valuable for either side to leave him alone and ghosts of the past come back to haunt him. It's brilliant, fast-paced stuff with no quarter given or asked for and as usual Mr Keeble brings it to life in the manner to which we've become accustomed.

Cato tries to think his way through while Macro takes his usual battering ram approach throughout. I do promise you will be cheering him during the "cliffhanger" scene towards the end! I don't know how long Simon Scarrow plans to keep these two going but I'll be following them to the end!

Adam Lofthouse says

Book 16! I can't believe there have been so many! I've read the books since the beginning, and my favourites will always be the first 3. As always, Simon delivers a great story, a cleverly worked plot and Macro and Cato are brought to life brilliantly.

I have no qualms with the book, but I have one concern for the series: We already know the ending, don't we? Macro and Cato fighting for Vespasian in the year of the four emperors. That's surely what we're leading to.

The trouble is, this is already well covered ground. Manda Scott, Douglas Jackson, Robert Fabbri, LJ Trafford, Anthony Riches - they've all written books set in that period, fantastic ones at that. I worry these series could end with a whimper, as the same story is regurgitated once again. I hope not, as I love the books and think Simon is a brilliant author. I for one will keep reading, and rooting for Macro and Cato as always!

Kate says

I always enjoy this series, and this time Cato and Macro are up to their necks in it in the streets of Rome. 3.5 stars. The Hb has 367 pages.

Keith Bonington says

Brilliant!

I think this may be my favourite addition to the series yet! For me, the best aspect of this series has not been the battles (don't get me wrong, I always really enjoy novels set in the Roman legions and Simon Scarrow is still the best writer of battle scenes I have encountered), the best plot of this series for me has always been the underlying shadow war between the Emperor's advisors for power.

This story definitely delivered on this plot coming to the fore and it felt as though the stakes were correspondingly much higher for the characters than in any previous story and, as always, Simon Scarrow manages to keep us guessing in regards to the intrigue and plotting of the aristocrats and freedmen surrounding the emperor.

Couple of slight gripes though:

**** SPOILERS****

1. The characters of Nero, Britannicus and Claudius. First off Claudius. At one point in the story, we are informed Claudius secretly supported the Republican cause before dying. I see this as a subtle nod to Robert Graves's wonderful 'I Claudius'. The problem I have is that Scarrow has never really given us any overt hint that the Claudius in this story is the quietly intelligent scholar of the Graves novels. Even just a small well-placed comment by Claudius to one of the main characters in a previous story would have helped here, or even a Cato flashback to when he was growing up in the palace and witnessed proof of Claudius being more intelligent than was presented in the series so far.

Likewise, I had trouble with the motives of Britannicus in this story. We are repeatedly told that he also believes in the Republic and will restore it after taking the throne. My problem is that, as he is stated to be very intelligent so often, I don't believe he would support a return to the Republic. Rome by this point in history was just too powerful for a group of aristocrats to share rule peacefully without civil war eventually breaking out again and I couldn't quite believe Britannicus wouldn't have recognised this within the story. My final minor irritation is the way Nero is portrayed towards the end of the story in one particular scene. We get multiple descriptions of him loving the sight of a part of Rome burning, clearly hinting at the claim that Nero ordered the Great Fire. My annoyance here is that Scarrow is simply too overt at hinting this, it almost seems as though Nero is going to run straight off and start fires round the city within the next few days. The Great Fire of Rome did not take place until AD 64 - 10 years after this story is set. Either Nero had a hell of a lot of patience following this story, or Simon Scarrow was a bit too eager to hint at what is to come much later down the line in the series.

****SPOILER ALERT IF YOU DON'T KNOW ROMAN HISTORY****

This brings me to my final slight worry with this series at this point. My assumption has always been that it will end with the Year of the Four Emperors and the ascension of Vespasian. However, we are still 15 years away from that happening, yet it feels like Cato has reached as high as he can reasonably go while sticking to the historical social ladder of Rome. Both he and Macro have now been sent all over the Empire and are increasingly famous both on the frontier and in Rome. My worry is by the time we get to AD 69, at this rate Cato will be one of the Four Emperors at the rate he is rising! I guess all I am saying is that I hope Simon Scarrow doesn't make his main character too over-powered by filling in every year of his life with famous exploits. My gut tells me that either he is going to have to do a time-jump at some stage, or scale down Cato's exploits a bit so that he is not saving the entire empire in every story.

These are all minor annoyances with the story though, and likely the only reason they're in my head now is because I just finished the novel an hour ago. Please do not be put off by them in any way!

Overall, this is definitely Simon Scarrow and the Eagles series at the very best and the pinnacle of the series so far in my opinion! Cannot wait for the next in the series...

Simon Brading says

The series has degenerated a bit too much into intrigue for my liking, Cato and Macro were much more entertaining when they were soldiering.

William says

Not very good, really. It starts well, but then gets bogged down into repetitive plotting and dialogue.

Many of the fight scenes are interesting for about half a page, then again, repetitive. Nothing much really revealed about how Romans fight.

Very episodic in parts, a somewhat clumsy assemblage of ideas, perhaps Scarrow was under pressure from his publisher. Often the case.

Notes and quotes:

39.0%

"... Keep the mob happy and the question of how they were ruled would remain a matter of supreme indifference to them. Keep the upper echelons of society living in fear and they would be cowed into a show of indifference."

40.0% one of the things I really like about Scarrow is that he doesn't constantly repeat himself just to extend the page count. So many other authors suck at this. ...

Scarrow sums up 3 chapters ...

Cato collected his thoughts and gave an account of everything from the arrest until the point Macro ran into him, literally.

Note: This great habit is totally abandoned by mid-book ?

50.0% Hahahaaaaha! Scarrow takes a swipe at Mango Mussolini!

"Haven't you heard? It's a new golden age. A new emperor. Now Nero's in charge, says he's going to make Rome great again."

63.0% far too much political chit chat here, very dull and unconvincing

70.0% ... uh oh. Lots of plot/dialogue repetition here. Very sad

Clemens Schoonderwoert says

This thrilling Roman historical adventure is the 16th instalment of the wonderful "Eagles of the Empire" series, featuring our two astounding lead characters Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro.

At the beginning of the book you'll find four well-drawn maps of Italia, of the Sinus Cumanus in AD 54, of Rome in the Age of Emperor Nero, as well as the Chain of Command of the Praetorian Guard, and not to forget a fantastic Cast List of characters who'll feature within this glorious tale.

At the end of the book you'll notice a superb documented Author's Note explaining the important issues concerning this gripping story, while the book itself contains wonderful storytelling by the author, supplemented with a great cast of real lifelike characters.

The book is set in Rome in the year AD 54 after the death of Emperor Claudius, and the fight for the throne that will start between the factions of Claudius's natural son, Britannicus, and the son of Claudius's wife, the Empress Agrippina, Nero.

In this tale our main characters Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro will be dragged in a world of turmoil and intrigue after the death of Emperor Claudius.

Deadly plots are being hatched, betrayal and power games are being played out by powerful and shadowy figures, and all that in order to gain the upper hand for that ultimate goal, that is the throne, power and title of Emperor.

What will follow in this stunning eventful book is an action-packed story of cunning and intrigue in the highest echelons of Roman power, where especially Cato, certainly with some great help from his ally and friend Macro, must somehow seem to overcome this treacherous and dangerous deadly world, and where the right decision will mean survival and the wrong one death.

Very much recommended, because this marvellous book concerning this series is for certain: "Another Cato & Macro Triumph"!

Steven Malone says

Cato & Macro stick in again

Fantastic historical adventure for our two heros. This time in the Eternal City itself. Loved the intrigue and machinations in the turmoil of Nero's reign.

The reason I have it a 4 star was that the very end of the climax was a bit predictable.

Still it is a great read.

Weerdski says

Natuurlijk 4*, deze verhalen boeien altijd. Hup Cato en Macro, pak die boeven!
Ik denk dat ik ook de Wellington serie van Scarrow op de wish list zet.

Robin Carter says

Review

Macro and Cato return again, 16 books in and the boys have grown, matured and changed. The new relationship with Cato as superior is well embedded and Macro is starting to take on the mantle of the soldier coming to end of his career, jaded (well as much as Macro ever could be), and sick of the politics and BS

that defines how his life may end.

Full review:

<https://parmenionbooks.wordpress.com/...>

Jo-anne Atkinson says

Rome is in turmoil, Emperor Claudius is dead and his adopted son, Nero, has been declared Emperor. However rumour has it that Claudius was poisoned by his wife/niece Agrippina to disinherit Claudius' natural son, Britannicus, in favour of her own son. As rebellion is in the air Prefect Cato is claimed by both sides as his influence is needed but as he trusted friend Macro is framed for murder and his son is kidnapped Cato struggles to know which side to ally with.

Scarrow is a greatly loved author and this was the first of his books that I have read. Day of the Caesars is the 16th in a long running series about the characters in the Roman Army and, in common with many long running series, there is a lot of detail that has appeared in previous books and which is hinted at in this instalment. For this reason I found it difficult to engage with the book at first, characters appeared fully formed and their relationships and previous experiences were alluded to. However after persevering I became engrossed in the tale which blended fact and fiction seamlessly. Scarrow is a very entertaining writer, the smells and atmosphere of Rome are vivid and the politics that form such a key component of Roman life are explained in a way that does not confuse. The fight scenes are visceral and the characters are actually well-rounded.

GBL says

In Day of the Caesars, Scarrow explores the political context after the death of Emperor Claudius, with factions supporting Nero, who has taken the throne and Britannicus, Claudius's son.

Both sides are keen to have the support of Cato and so both he and Macro become enmeshed as the two sides battle it out. Caught in the middle is Lucius, Cato's son, who makes a potential hostage to keep Cato under control.

The novel moves swiftly as a plot to overthrow Nero develops and Cato and Macro find themselves deeply involved in the conflict.

As ever, the two soldiers win through using their intelligence and battle skills to bring victory to Nero. It is clear however that they are now too popular and the novel ends with them being offered safety, away from Rome, in the East. We now know where we will find the two heroes in Scarrow's next instalment of the Eagles of the Empire series.

David says

The latest (#16) entry in Simon Scarrow's 'Eagle' series of books, with this one taking place just after the death of Emperor Claudius and the ascension of his heir Nero to the Imperial throne.

Despite his best efforts, it's not long before Prefect Cato - and, by extension, Macro - is drawn into the tangled web of conspiracy around that ascension, in particular by a faction that support the claim of Nero's

half-brother Britannicus to that throne.

With further reveals around Cato's deceased wife Julia - was she really unfaithful to him? - and with a little bit of further character development for Macro (who is now even beginning to think about settling down!) this I found to be less action-orientated than many of the previous entries in the series, but still an enjoyable read.

Neil says

I hammered through this rollicking read! Pacy, action filled and well written. Good action scenes. Please keep them coming Mr Scarrow! Loved it

Nathan Trachta says

I'll open by saying I love the Macro/Cato series, Mr Scarrow has done a wonderful job putting the Boys in danger and having them find a way out. With the Boys coming back to Rome I was curious to see how they'd "participate" in the transition from Claudius to Nero/Britannicus. Have to say Mr. Scarrow didn't fail. Rather than being a typical legionnaire story with political undertones, I knew this one would be political with sword undertones and it was. Rather than having Nero being in power absolutely, Mr. Scarrow weaves a tight story where a Britannicus faction is trying to overthrow Nero and his supporters. We all know which faction Cato and Macro support (they're soldiers rather than politicians) and Mr. Scarrow pulls at this with good political intrigue that causes the Boys to be defensive and at points on the run! The real fun part is that we really don't know if Macro and Cato can survive the political pulling and intrigue of the two factions until the end. A really outstanding book here! I loved everything here and am looking forward to whatever happens next!
