

SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATION

Steven Saylor's *Roma Sub Rosa* Series

Steven Saylor is an author of intriguing historical detective fiction set in the Rome of Cicero and Caesar. His protagonist Gordianus (aka "The Finder") lives in Rome and, in the early novels, is called on by Cicero to investigate cases that Cicero is about to prosecute. With the back-story of many of the novels taken from Cicero's Letters, Saylor sets a high bar for himself as Gordianus is involved with real characters of history, often *speaking* lines from the writings of Cicero and others. The series includes (in historical order):

Title	Involving
The Seven Wonders	prequel, Antipater of Siden 92 to 90 BC
Raiders of the Nile	prequel, in Alexandria & Egypt ca 88 BC
Wrath of the Furies	prequel, in Ephesus with Mithridates
<i>Roman Blood</i>	Cicero and Sulla in 80 BC [1 st written]
<i>House of the Vestals</i>	9 short stories set in 90 to 73 BC
<i>A Gladiator Dies Only Once</i>	9 short stories set in 77 to 64 BC
Arms of Nemesis	Marcus Crassus & slave revolt in 72 BC
<i>Catalina's Riddle</i>	Catalina and Cicero in 63 to 62 BC
The Venus Throw	Philosopher Dio, Catullus & Clodia in 56 BC
<i>A Murder on the Appian Way</i>	Clodius and Milo in 52 BC
<i>Rubicon</i>	Caesar marches on Rome in 49 BC
<i>Last Seen in Massilia</i>	Trebonius lays siege to Massila in 49 BC
<i>A Mist of Prophecies</i>	Cassandra and Caesar in 48 BC
<i>A Judgment of Caesar</i>	Caesar, Pompey & Cleopatra in 48-47 BC
<i>The Triumph of Caesar</i>	Calpurnia, Caesar & his calendar in 46 BC
The Throne of Caesar	Brutus, Anthony, ... Ides of March in 44 BC

Gordianus is confronted at every turn with egotistical Romans. In particular, Cicero gives him "a headache":

"I have fallen out and made up with Cicero so many times I am weary of it. Is he an honest man or a crass opportunist? A principled man of the people or an apologist for the rich nobility? If he were clearly one thing or the other, like most men, I would know what to think of him. Instead, he is the most exasperating man in Rome. His conceit and superior attitude, no matter how well deserved, do nothing to endear him to me; neither does his propensity for telling only half the truth, even when his purpose may be honorable. . . ." [from Judgment of Caesar]

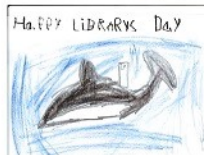
These stories are exciting, well founded in history and meticulously set in the period. **The books in BOLD are available at KRL.** Three prequels to the original series: The Seven Wonders, Raiders of the Nile and Wrath of the Furies were written in 2012, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

So, this summer, come back in time and enter Gordianus' world of pre-empire Rome . . . Start with any of the stories ... If you get "hooked", you can read them in order.

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For ALL ages.