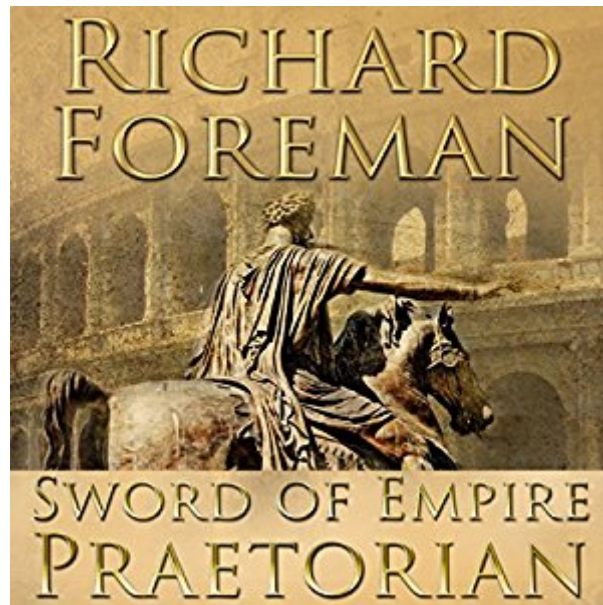


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Sword Of Empire: Praetorian



Synopsis

171 AD. Rome is at war with the northern tribes - and is yet to win a significant battle. The Germanic armies have crossed the Danube and have attacked the Empire, slaughtering thousands. The Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, is losing the support of the people and the Senate. Yet he has formed a plan he believes will change the balance of power in the region. Aurelius has dispatched an officer in the Praetorian Guard, the centurion Gaius Maximus, to escort the son and daughter of a powerful German tribal chief back to their village through enemy territory - in hope of arranging an alliance with Rome. But Maximus, to complete his mission, must contest with enemies at home, as well as abroad. One man will change the fate of an Empire, or die trying. From the backstreets of Rome, to the forests of Germany, and onto the Battle of Pannonia, *Sword of Empire: Praetorian* is the first book in a new series from the best-selling author of the novel *Augustus: Son of Rome* - and the *Sword of Rome* collection of novellas about the campaigns of Julius Caesar. For fans of Simon Scarrow, Ben Kane, and Conn Iggulden. Richard Foreman's books have been widely praised.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book popped up in my "recommended" list on Amazon, and, eager for respite from more serious fare, I downloaded it. I found it immensely enjoyable. I've always been partial to sword-and-sandal movies, plus I studied Latin for four years in high school. As I've grown older my understanding of the brutal realities of those ancient days has grown, even as my appreciation of the realities of government and politics has also matured. The elements of the story will be familiar to many readers:- The strong, silent hero nursing memories of a painful loss.- Political skulduggery and backstabbing.- The secret mission.- Nick of time rescues.- War in a distant land.- The eager youngster.- The final battle

where not everything is resolved.- A liberal sprinkling of things to be addressed in future series installments. Along the way we have flaming arrows, the slitting of throats, early Christianity, and the presence of the fabled physician Galen (whom I pictured as being played by David Hyde Pierce). I found very enjoyable both the characters and the author's language. The characters are recognizable and clearly drawn. I found it very easy to picture and get to know them. The writing is clear, direct, and replete with realistic imagery and flashes of humor. The author efficiently and skillfully metes out backstory throughout the novel. Also fun: occasional use of arcane terms like "scutum" which brought back some high school memories. I look forward to the next in the series, **SWORD OF EMPIRE: CENTURION**.

A string of philosophical meanderings uttered by undeveloped characters. To many better authors in this genre to waste your time with this effort that fails to achieve mediocrity. Can't understand what the other, more favorable reviewers saw in this book.

"Close to history" eh? I'd say this has about the same historical accuracy as a historical drama on HBO, but again, it can always be argued that unless you lived in such times, you can never know what it was truly like. It's not so much the events. I have a beef with the characters themselves and the way they think; other than the fact that they're stock, they act and think waaaay too MODERN (I seriously don't see what's so great about them, they're all easy personality traits to fall back on in this type of plot, i.e. Don Juan side kick, brooding main character, the only one chaste, attractive woman outside of whores and wenches). I even found myself rolling my eyes in disgust at how blatantly they remind me of the former high school jocks I find at the bar trying to feel up the girls. But that's just me. For the general audience, they'll probably flip their sh*t if they stepped into the mindset of a real Praetorian/centurion back in the day. Is that a bad thing? No. Of course not. This book was still entertaining. The writing wasn't terrible. In fact, there are several memorable lines, albeit distracting typos abound, but clearly the story's been edited nonetheless. The author obviously knows how to weave a plot together. I found myself turning page after page, even though I didn't really care to find out. The story flowed well. But hardly a satisfying experience that left a bitter taste in my mouth overall.

I bought the Complete Campaigns which contained all the Sword of Rome series to save on money rather than buying each story and really enjoyed them. Again, whilst I prefer slightly longer works of fiction, hence why I enjoyed the omnibus, I thought this was a great introduction to the series. The

writer has grown a lot as a writer. Some of the same humour features again, but less so than the previous books. A great read.

Did you ever read a book that actually made you angry because it was so bad, trite and banal? This is one of those books. First of all it is 140 something double spaced pages. Seemed like a final project for a writing class. Replete with references to roman history and figures spanning hundred of years in everyday conversation. It's like Americans constantly referring to George Washington, the Civil War and Columbus landing in the Santa Maria while discussing the current political situations. Supreme rip off. Give me Harry Sidebottom or Wallace Breen.

I greatly enjoyed the details of Roman life in this tale, and the characters were interesting. The author has definitely done some good research on the period, and it showed. Even though the beginning felt like it jumped around a little, it had a decent pace through the rest of the book. The dialogue struck me as somewhat stilted, but it's difficult to portray what would be a different language, in a different culture, into modern English, and I understand that difficulty. I enjoyed the appearance of historical characters in the tale, such as Galen or Marcus Aurelius. I did feel somewhat jarred by the phrase, "What would Maximus do?", as it reminded me of Jesus bumper stickers, but it worked in the context. The sprinkling of philosophy throughout the book was both appropriate and interesting.

I loved this book. Roman times fascinate me and this just fed my desire to find more of this age and historical background and read more. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wants an exciting, well written story with excellent character development.

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