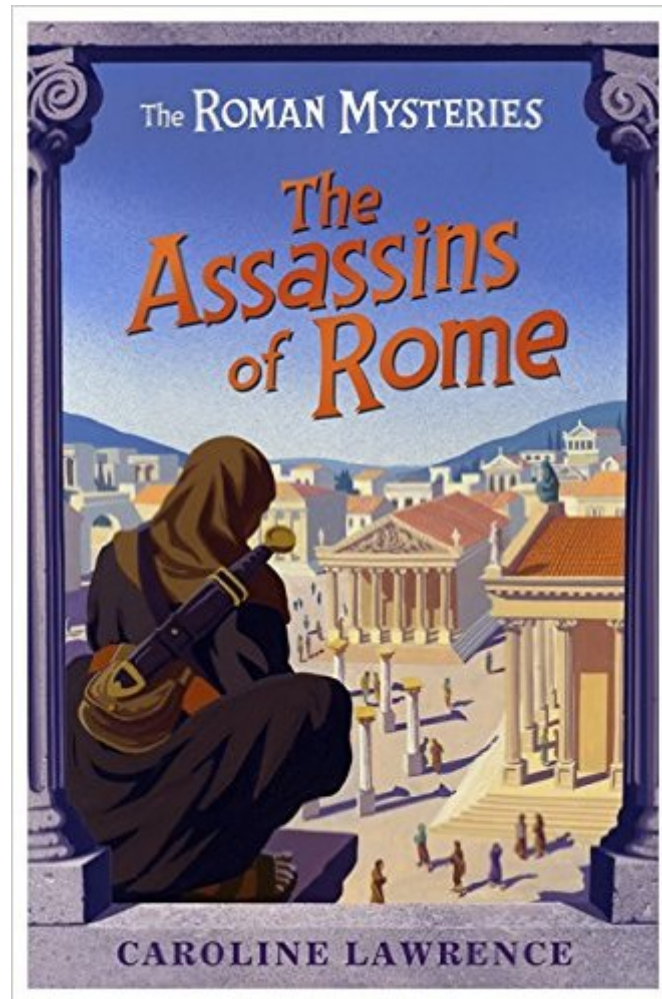


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The Assassins Of Rome (The Roman Mysteries)



Synopsis

Jonathan goes on a secret quest to Rome, and Flavia, Nubia and Lupus set out to find him. Their dangerous mission takes them to the Golden House of Nero where a deadly assassin is rumoured to be at work - and they learn what happened to Jonathan's family during the terrible destruction of Jerusalem nine years earlier.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Series: The Roman Mysteries (Book 4)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Orion Children's (April 1, 2003)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1842550236

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #252,259 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Ancient](#) #95 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations](#) #124 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical](#)

Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

It is Jonathan de Mordecai's eleventh birthday, and despite the presence of his friends Flavia, Nubian and Lupus, he's feeling a little apprehensive. Something bad always happens on his birthday, and sure enough, a visit from the local magistrate informs the family that a dangerous assassin known as Simeon is on the loose, and could be targeting Jonathan's father. Yet things may not be as bad as they appear: only a few chapters in, we learn that the assassin is actually Jonathan's uncle - the brother of his missing mother. He is on an important secret mission to Rome, and under the cover of darkness, he shares some astonishing news with his nephew. Refusing to be left behind, Jonathan accompanies Simeon to Rome, ignorant to the fact that his father has just been arrested. Hot on his tail are Flavia, Nubian and Lupus, hoping to stop their friend before he does something that gets him killed. "The Assassins of Rome" marks the first installment in this

series that is specifically character-centric. Up until now the children have shared the spot-light, but "Assassins" definitely belongs to Jonathan. Likewise, it is less of a mystery as it is a mission, for Jonathan accompanies his uncle to Rome in the hopes of finding what happened to his long-lost mother. Previous books have mentioned the siege of Jerusalem by Roman legions in 70AD, and Lawrence draws upon the bloody aftermath of that event in order to shape the context of this plot. No one, either adult or child, will walk away from this book without a rudimentary understanding of what happened and why, as well as the major figures that were involved.

The events in *The Assassins of Rome* follow about a month after the events in *The Pirates of Pompeii*, and is the fourth in Lawrence's Roman Mysteries Series. Here we rejoin Flavia, Nubia, Jonathan, and Lupus just as they return home to Ostia. As with the previous books, this volume is set in the first century, 79 A.D. As we start out here, the group has joined together to celebrate Jonathan's 11th birthday...and as usual, something bad always happens on his birthday...he breaks a an expensive perfume jar, royal guards show up at his house, and much more. The net result is that Jonathan turns up missing and the others find themselves desperate to solve the mystery of where he has gone. *The Assassins of Rome* differs slightly in form from the previous books in the series because it is told from two different perspectives, and alternates between the two. The first perspective is that of Flavia (and her group, consisting of Flavia, Nubia, Aristo and Lupus) and the second perspective is that of Jonathan and his uncle as they travel to Rome looking for his mother. This makes the story a bit more exciting and confusing than previous books...but it's welcome deviation from the regular formula and helps keep the action going, I don't think it would have been as enjoyable if there were big breaks while a narrator explained what was going on. This device made it easy for the story to remain fast paced and exciting. As with previous books, the author tackles the ins and outs of daily life in 78 A.D.

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