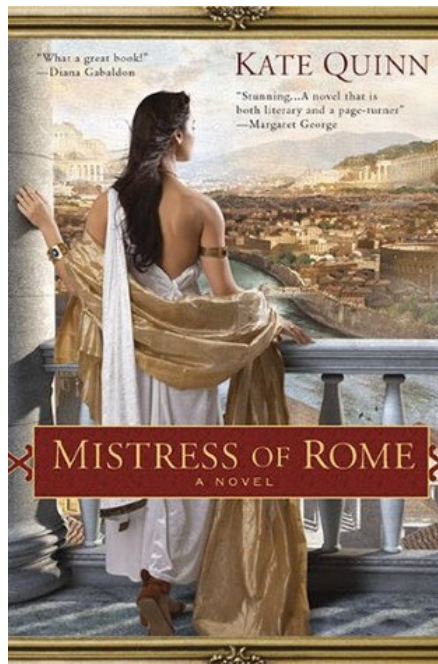




Mistress of Rome

Kate Quinn

Download now

Read Online ➞

Mistress of Rome

Kate Quinn

Mistress of Rome Kate Quinn

The first in an unforgettable historical saga from the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Alice Network*.

First-century Rome: A ruthless emperor watches over all--and fixes his gaze on one young woman...

Thea is a slave girl from Judaea, purchased as a toy for the spiteful heiress Lepida Pollia. Now she has infuriated her mistress by capturing the attention of Rome's newest and most savage gladiator--and though his love brings Thea the first happiness of her life, their affair ends quickly when a jealous Lepida tears them apart.

Remaking herself as a singer for Rome's aristocrats, Thea unwittingly attracts another admirer: the charismatic Emperor of Rome. But the passions of an all-powerful man come with a heavy price, and Thea finds herself fighting for both her soul and her sanity. Many have tried to destroy the Emperor: a vengeful gladiator, an upright senator, a tormented soldier, a Vestal Virgin. But in the end, the life of Domitian lies in the hands of one woman: the Emperor's mistress.

Mistress of Rome Details

Date : Published April 6th 2010 by Berkley Books

ISBN : 9780425232477

Author : Kate Quinn

Format : Paperback 500 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Historical Romance, Cultural, Italy

 [Download Mistress of Rome ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mistress of Rome ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Mistress of Rome Kate Quinn

From Reader Review Mistress of Rome for online ebook

Amber says

I bought this on a whim. I didn't read the back, I didn't read any reviews, I certainly didn't read the page of critic's praise just inside the cover. Every time I've gone on these indicators lately, I've been incredibly disappointed. So, I bought this one based on--*GASP!*--the cover!

I was skeptical as the first several pages are describing a self-harming ritual of one of the main characters. I was even a little disgusted by such a transparent hook, but I found that I couldn't put the book down. In fact, I felt that way throughout the entire reading. Horrified, disgusted, and utterly unable to stop. In fact, I read the entire thing in one sitting.

Though I found some of the "shocking" plot twists a tad contrived and very, very predictable, it was sort of comforting to know that the author wasn't trying to make the book more than the plot could handle. It began, moved along, and ended exactly the way you would think a book about the Mistress(es) of a crazed Roman Emperor should.

The book basically follows the three mistresses of Emperor Domitian, a suspicious, violent man. The first of these women is the Emperor's own niece, Julia, who's tragic story begins when she's turned down by the Vestals and ends with her violent death. The second is Thea, a Jewish slave who is eventually trained as a musician. She is set up from the beginning as a direct rival to her owner, Lepida Pollia, a beautiful and spoiled heiress with a very dark side. Their rivalry begins when an up-and-coming gladiator known as Arius the Barbarian chooses Thea over Lepida, leading Lepida to sell Thea into prostitution. This sets off a series of events which fuel the hatred between the two women as Thea (now known as Athena) gains fame as a singer and Lepida becomes the wife of a well respected Senator. When Thea catches the eye of the Emperor, whom Lepida had hoped to call her own, it sparks a descent into violence and madness for both women.

I can't say, even now, that I liked it. The characters and subject matter were too dark to *like*, but I can say that it is *compelling*. I couldn't put it down and that's all I can really ask for.

Erin says

In between ARCs and my TBR shelf, I am revisiting some of my favorite books; specifically books that I read prior to my years on Goodreads. *Mistress of Rome* was my first Kate Quinn read and even eight years later still burns with **5 golden stars**

Set in Ancient Rome and spanning the years 81 AD -96 AD, *Mistress of Rome* takes readers back into a city under the rule of Emperor Domitian. From political intrigues to the gladiators ring, this is a masterfully crafted story that I have returned to again and again. As I have mentioned, this is a re-read, but yet I still found myself swept away and on the edge of my seat taking in all the action. If you have ever thought of "visiting" Ancient Rome, I cannot think of a better book that will keep your hands glued to its pages.

Tara Chevestt says

Ok people, key word in the synopsis is "depravity." I wish I had paid closer attention. I spent this entire novel trying to find a character I could at least like if not relate to in some way. It didn't happen.

Thea is a Jewish slave that works for Lepida, a Roman "lady." Both Thea and Lepida develop lustful feelings towards the newest, fiercest, most famous gladiator, Arius. The first quarter of the novel really drew me in as Arius spurns Lepida (she has the eyes of a ferret, apparently) and begins a rather hot and steamy affair with Thea. I was really quite hooked until part two. At this point, the evil, vile, and incredibly disgusting Lepida (Can you tell how much I hated her?) has separated Thea and Arius and married a senator. From this point on, it just becomes a giant Roman orgy. Lepida is fornicating with so and so (a family relation and that is all I'm going to reveal) who was just fornicating with Thea who at this point, is fornicating with almost as many men as Lepida and that is a lot. Then Thea begins fornicating with the Emperor and Lepida wants to fornicate with him too. But alas, poor Lepida must settle for simply fornicating in the same room as the Emperor and Thea.

Both Thea and Lepida are also horrid mothers. Thea abandons her boy most of the time while Lepida tells her sick daughter to go have seizures in another room. Thea has a strange addiction to cutting herself, Lepida is addicted to sex, Arius just loves to kill people, and the Emperor is just plain demented and perverted. The only likeable people in the entire novel were Marcus and his daughter, Sabina but their roles weren't large enough to overcome my distaste at the bitter rivalry and power hungry bed hopping of Thea and Lepida.

Well written but not about characters I want to read about. Too much depravity for me.

Carol ?? says

3.5*

To my grandparents, Glenn & Marylou Reed-Quinn, who are no longer here to read this book, but who would undoubtedly have cracked a bottle of champagne & bought a dozen copies.

My favourite dedication of the year.

I didn't respond quite so strongly to the book. I don't need a likeable heroine - Forever Amber & Gone with the Wind remain as two of my favourite novels. I think the problem is that I felt nothing for Thea at all & found most of the other female characters more interesting. Maybe I need a likeable hero. I, Claudius is another favourite set in roughly the same era & I liked Claudius very much, whereas Arius & Vix remained charisma free killing machines.

Quinn in her afterword lists some of her inaccuracies (& I found at least a couple more) & I thought it was a smart move writing in a modern idiom - so many writers slide uneasily between the past & present in dialogue & I always find that jarring.

Quinn can write a fast paced & compelling page turner, but my rating has to reflect that I liked this book rather than loved it.

I'm not sure if I will continue with this series but I still want to read Quinn's Borgia books.

Abby Lyn says

I picked up this book based on the cover recommendations of authors including Diana Gabaldon and Margaret George, and was not disappointed. This is a fun, enthralling romp through ancient Rome. I would classify this as more of a guilty-pleasure page-turner rather than literary as George suggests, but that is what makes it a great summer read. I would have preferred the author kept to either third or first person rather than alternating back and forth, and the dialogue was a bit modern American for historical fiction, but those are minor complaints. This is a juicy read and I look forward to the next installment, as I hear this book will have a sequel. Readers should be warned that despite the lovely book cover, this book features truly dark and violent moments.

Avis says

Oh.

Kate Quinn is the queen of characterization. Seriously. Every person in this book has been carefully and thoroughly planned. Kate gave them flaws, a past, their own strengths and weaknesses. She gave them voice of their own and made them stand out in a crowd. She made them all, Thea, Arius, Lepida, even the minor characters, truly unforgettable and only a great writer can do that.

Thea was my favourite character. She was fragile, yet incredibly strong person. Life wasn't easy for her, being a slave, a *property*, but she never complained, not even once. She accepted the worst things life threw at her without any objection. When she found herself in the worst possible situation, she tried to make best of it. She is an example of a strong heroine ~~and if YA authors would create characters that are half as great as Thea is, a world would be a better fucking place.~~

Besides amazing characters, writing was brilliant. It was so well paced, so full of life; simply incredible.

I don't often give 5 stars, but this book deserved it.

And there are two other books!

Can't wait!

Minni Mouse says

That moment when you go in expecting a Roman version of a Regency-era historical romance...but instead you get a *Gladiator*-level storyline meets *Game of Thrones*-level cruelty and wickedness.

It's an understatement to say that this book took me by surprise. Given the pretty cover, the title, the genre listings, and the book description I was expecting either a corny historical romance novel or a silly, light-hearted story like *Curses and Smoke*. What smacked me in the face instead was a whole lot of perverse corruption and a crazy amount of slapping my hand over my eyes as I took a few shuddering breaths to compose myself.

You think politics and morals are shaky today? Well, true, they are...but this book will remind you that Ancient Rome--the greatest military power and unrivaled leader of thought in the world--used to also be the pinnacle of violence and corruption and barbarism and perversion.

Needless to say, I refuse to shelve this as "romance" and I sure ain't shelving this as "light entertainment," either.

THE STORY

I'd say the book synopsis is starkly misleading because it makes it seem like the focus is on one woman struggling with her relationship with two powerful men. You make that mistake and you're in for a nasty shock like me because this book is so much darker and broader than a pithy romantic triangle.

This story takes place from A.D. 81 - A.D. 96 and follows the perspectives of four main characters through the last years of the rule of Roman Emperor Titus Flavius Domitianus, a real historical figure.

- 1) Thea: a Jewish slave who falls in love with a gladiator, is sold into prostitution, becomes a celebrated singer, and ensnares the obsession of the Emperor of Rome
- 2) Lepida Pollia: wife of a Roman Senator; ruthless and ambitious in her lust for power
- 3) Arius: Rome's most celebrated and cunning gladiator
- 4) Paulinus: Lepida's tortured stepson and eventual right-hand man to the Emperor

I can't expand more without spoiling the many plot twists, but essentially there's political corruption, violence, death, adultery, orgies, rape, incest, and torture. (Ah, Rome.) The saving grace is that none of these are gratuitous or graphically described to titillate. Apart from the corruption and fighting, the blood & gore are restrained and matter-of-factly stated, the sex is either implied or offscreen, and the torture is offscreen.

THE GOOD

- 1) I love stories around Ancient Rome, so natural book chemistry right there.
- 2) Props to the author for crafting such a thick, convoluted story. Again, this book spans fifteen years of history so we have an entire arsenal of secondary characters and intersecting storylines. When we started, I almost waved this book off as a predictable forbidden romance between a young slave girl and a gladiator who wanted nothing more than their freedom. Part Two jumps forward six years, however, and we quickly learn the broad scale this book plans to take us.
- 3) Hardly any of our characters are wholly likeable (or even partly likeable), but one could argue that this is more realistic than if we portrayed them as gold-hearted heroes from a young adult series. Our protagonists aren't Herculean leaders or Chosen One heroes, after all -- they're a prostitute, a man who disembowels others for a living, a feeble pushover politician, an incest-driven Praetorian war hero, and a bastard child.

May the odds be ever in your favor.

- 4) The Emperor was so sadistic and mentally twisted that I wanted to reach through the pages and smash his face in. Minus point for this sicko but plus points to the author for creating such a strong antagonist.

The moment when he secures his newest mistress had me flipping tables and howling.

“Yes. I didn’t think I’d find you so interesting, not after three months. But there’s something in you I seem to like, and on a long-term basis I prefer to own rather than rent. You’ll return to Rome with me in a week.

"You know I’ve built a new palace? Nearly completed. I’ll use it for public functions . . . and for the Empress’s quarters. You’ll move into her old rooms next to mine in the Domus Augustana—that’s my private palace. You know, I had a statue of Minerva carved with your face for my private temple? Perhaps you really are a goddess. It would be foolish to let my very own goddess slip away from me, wouldn’t it? And I’ve never been a fool."

Domitian traced my neck, his eyes turning blank and absent. “I like to play games, you know. With my chamberlains, my senators, my guards. It’s easy to make them afraid of me. Even my wife’s afraid under that marble face of hers. But you aren’t."

5) I hated Lepida even more, though. This woman was probably the sickest and cruelest female literary antagonist that I've read. And I don't usually like using this word...but homegirl was the textbook definition of a slut:

“The affair with my son when you were a bride of twenty-one. The affairs with, at my last count, twenty-two senators, nine praetors, three judges, and five provincial governors.”

“It’s—it’s not true, I never—”

“At least they were men of your own class,” [he] rode over me. “What about the affairs with the charioteers, and the masseurs at the public bathhouses, and the legionnaires—especially the two brothers from Gaul who took you at the same time, front and back? Governors and senators are one thing, Lepida, but trash from the gutters...”

Which was why it was so refreshing to watch this woman get *told*.

“Why?” Lepida drew back her silk skirts and kicked Arius in his injured ankle; he drew a breath through his teeth. “Why her? Why not me?”

He regarded her briefly. “Because you look like a ferret.”

Well said.

6) Vix! I didn't think I'd like this kid so much but I was impressed by the distinct characterization that the author gave him in the form of physical energy and a fearless mouth.

“So.” The Emperor settled back into the black cushions. “What shall I do with you?”

“You could let me walk out,” Vix suggested.

“No . . . I don’t think so.”

“Worth a try.”

“Correct.”

“All black, huh?” Vix looked around the black triclinium—chinking his wrist chains together, Paulinus noticed, to hide the fact his hands were trembling. “Scary.”

“I haven’t decided yet what to do with you, Vercingetorix,” the Emperor mused. “I could throw you to the lions in the arena. Or perhaps I’ll have you gelded. How would you like to sing as prettily as your mother?”

“I’m tone-deaf.”

“A man of the sword, then. Like your father, perhaps. Who was he?”

“Dunno.” Clink clink clink.

“Liar,” Domitian said pleasantly. “We’ll have to work on that.”

“Oh boy. Can’t wait.” Clink clink clink.

“Stop that.”

“Stop what?” Clink clink clink.

“That sound. It annoys me. A god’s ears are acute.”

“Well, we’ve all got problems.” Clink clink clink. “You’re going to kill me,” said Vix to the Emperor. “Aren’t you.”

“We’ll see.”

“We’ll see, nothing. I’ve heard the stories. Gods squish mortals like ants.”

“You believe me a god, then?”

“Well, I don’t know.” Another smile. “You sure bleed like a mortal, Caesar.”

THE BAD

- 1) This book was LONG (longer than this review, if you can believe it).
- 2) The writing style was extremely matter-of-fact with very little richness in its descriptions or narratives. Most of the text was dialogue, which came in handy when it came to glossing over the violent scenes, but it was frustrating during important scenes when I wished there was more context of what was happening.

“I’m not allowed to do anything anymore.”

“Except wait on the Emperor?”

“ . . . Don’t.”

“Why can’t I touch you?”

“He’d smell you on me.”

“He’s not a god.”

“Arius, he’ll never release me. Once he puts his mark on something, it’s his forever.”

Silence. He reached for her.

“Arius—Arius, don’t.”

“Don’t what?”

“Don’t touch me.”

“What’s wrong? You’re shaking.”

“No, I—I—just don’t try to kiss me. Please.”

“I need to know you’re real. You look like a dream, and I’m old and ugly.”

“Never that. Never that.”

THE VERDICT

This book was emotionally draining due to its dark and evil nature. What kept me going was the need to see our characters find happiness or justice or peace, but that was hard-pressed to find.

Would I recommend it? Yes, I would. The writing style was extremely direct and straight forward--which I found difficult and distracting in its simplicity--and the characterizations lacked a richness...but this seems like one of those books where the plot elements themselves are supposed to carry the weight and pacing of the book. If that's the case then well done - there's certainly a lot that transpires in this book. **As a result, I found this book to be a thick mix of drama, action, suspense, scheming, romance, and heartache.**

Would I read the sequels? Yes, but preferably after a giant cookie.

Beatrix says

I was very pleasantly surprised by this book. I took it because I didn’t know what to read next. I thought it will be some shallow romance story, but I was wrong. This book is great! It has everything: **interesting plot** (constantly something happens, this book is full of events, the plot doesn’t drag on), **great characters** (I loved narration from different points of view here, you get to know a whole palette of amazing characters) and **quality** – it’s very important that the book is well written, and here the author obviously knew what she was doing. Ms. Quinn studied her material well before writing.

The result is a great book, with depth, that will entertain you and make you both sad and happy...

It’s a book about human destiny, fight for survival set in the time of Roman Empire.

Blair says

While I liked this book a lot, I'm surprised so many reviewers have described it as literary... For me, it was a trashy potboiler, a definite guilty pleasure - albeit a very well-researched one with lots of enjoyable historical detail and exciting action. The vivid depiction of everyday goings-on in ancient Rome brings the period and settings to life in a way the modern reader can easily relate to; I can see this book being turned into a film or TV miniseries, in fact I wouldn't be at all surprised if one is already in production. The characters were great,

with the scheming, bitchy Lepida being a highlight - I loved how the sections written from her point of view read like entries from a bratty teenager's diary, and despite how awful she's meant to be, by the end I kind of loved her (and I would also have loved to see more of the relationship between her and Domitian, they would've made a brilliant evil couple!) In comparison to Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen* - another example of historical fiction based partly on real events and figures, which I read last month - this was so much better. Soapy, but absolutely fantastic fun to read.

Parvathy says

The first time I realized I loved reading was when I was eight and had finished reading **The Vicar of Wakefield**. I still remember the feeling I had when I clutched the book in my hand and declared I loved reading. It was not because the particular book in question was extraordinary, regardless of its status as a classic, but it was the first time a book has completely captured my attention that everything else seemed pale in comparison. I have read a number of books after this one and loved a few of them immensely but it was not until I read **Mistress of Rome** that the same feeling captured me again. I was looking for a book in the historical literature recommendation section for my mother and by chance I caught her exclaiming that this one looks like a promising read. I didn't give much heed to this book at the time but checked out the book for my mother's sake. Before I knew it I was reading this book and was so entranced by the story that I forgot the fact that I was not planning on reading it in the first place. But these spontaneous spur of the moment decision yields the most surprising results as I am convinced that this book is a rare gem I would have missed otherwise. The story transports us to an era and place which is well known yet shrouded in mystery. It takes us to ancient Rome and tells us the story of a Jewish slave girl called Thea. Her abuses at the hands of her ever spiteful and jealous mistress Lepida Pollia. Her true love for the gladiator Arius the Barbarian. The way she deals with the every twist and turns the fates throw at her ultimately leading to her rise as she become the mistress of Roman Emperor Domitian and there by the mistress of Rome. It was truly a remarkable read. It goes without saying that I liked Thea's character but I loved Arius the Barbarian as well. The way he fought to keep his demons passive. His fighting in the Arena, his love for Thea and above all his strength to stand against an empire bend on seeing his death. The love story between this two survivors is heart wrenching and it draws you in with its simplistic charm. The life of the Roman people portrayed in this book are not far fetched or unbelieving. Every twist had a possible feel to it. The best part of the book though were those parts narrated from the point of view of Lepida. Now there is a character that will stay in your memory for a very long time. Evil in form of a person or more conveniently Evil personified as a female owing to Emperor Domitian who is a strong contender for that former title. But while the emperor's evilness can be accounted for in his insanity Lepida's was from deep with in her soul. I loved reading about her little schemes and the way she manipulated the people around her for her means. Her spoiled and self absorbed narration made me wish for her downfall so badly that it became a big reason for my preoccupation with this book. Towards the end I was so tensed that I even thought of skipping a couple of pages ahead to learn the outcome before hand but was able to restrain my self as the story moved on in a fast pace. A huge applause has to be given to the author for coming up with a breath taking climax which left me without any more nails to sacrifice. But fair warning has to be given the faint hearted as this book is not for them. There are parts of the book that can make even the strong ones feel squeamish. The historical notes at the end were highly informative and left me in a state of awe for all those authors who piece such tidbits together to create entirely interesting stories of their own. Saying that I am not entirely sure that the book should be curbed to the title of historical literature. Though there were a lot of historical elements in the book but it never goes in much details in this regard. The historical wars and conquests are explained and lengthy descriptions are given for the Colosseum battles of the gladiators. But a wealth of information is not obtained from this book about that particular time period to qualify it as a historical fiction. Nevertheless this book is worth a read and definitely a keeper.

Juliette Cross says

3rd Reread. One of my very favorite books. 5+ STARS

This book has all the elements of the perfect story, in my opinion. Danger, despair, hope, betrayal, revenge, murder, lust, and undying, unconditional love. And though this is accurately categorized as historical fiction, it centers around one of the best love stories I've ever read. EVER.

Ana says

"I love you. I love the way you rub the scar on the back of your hand when you're nervous. I love the way you make a sword into a living part of your body. I love the way you burn your eyes into me, as if you're seeing me fresh every time. I love the black streak in you that wants to kill the world, and the soft streak that is sorry afterward. I love the way you laugh, as if you're surprised that you can laugh at all. I love the way you kiss my breath away. I love the way you breathe and speak and smile. I love the way you take the air out of my lungs when you hold me. I love the way you make a dance out of death. I love the confusion I see in your eyes when you realize you are happy. I love every muscle and bone in your body, every twist and bend in your soul."

Jenny Q says

4.5 Stars. Wow, what a story! I was under its spell from the very first page, and I could not put it down, mainly because I was instantly drawn to the lead characters, Arius and Thea. They are both slaves, subject to the whims of the Roman aristocracy. They are both fighting to survive: Arius in the arena, and Thea in the service of her truly awful mistress, Lepida. I loved them both, but my heart really went out to Thea. This was my first experience with a character who cuts herself, and I was surprised to find it in a historical novel. I thought this aspect of Thea was very well written, and made a lot of sense given her history. Thea is so calm and collected, making the best of every rotten twist life throws at her, and cutting herself is the only way Thea knows how to release her anger, guilt, and disappointment. Until she meets Arius...

Arius is a wonderful character, too. Noble, honorable, and brave, but filled with seething hatred for himself and the Romans who come to watch him fight, and Emperor Domitian in particular. He's fighting dark demons, too, until he meets Thea, and discovers a new reason for living. Their love story is so simple and sweet, yet it spans a dozen years of misfortune, separation, and tragedy. As Arius continues to fight, he reluctantly becomes the darling of the arena, feeding the greedy Romans' hunger for bloodsport by day, and drinking himself into oblivion by night, all the while mocking them, disrespecting them, and making an enemy of the Emperor. Meanwhile Thea, though still a slave, finds her star rising, too, as a songbird in demand among the aristocracy. Capturing the attention of Domitian would seem like a dream come true, but it turns out to be the ultimate nightmare, and Thea finds herself fighting to survive once again. Will she make

it out alive? Will she ever meet Arius again? And if she does, what will happen when he discovers the love of his life is the mistress of his greatest enemy? Well I'm not telling--you'll have to read the book to find out!

Overall, I thought this book was awesome! I've already told you how much I loved Thea and Arius, but there's also a great cast of supporting characters, and combined with a background of excellent historical detail, the city of Rome and the vices of its citizens really come to life, and become characters in themselves. My complaints are few, and the main one being that I never figured out why Lepida was so downright nasty and spiteful. I couldn't find any real motivation for her behavior, and she came across as being very one-dimensional--the convenient big, bad villain. But boy, oh boy, I hated her and couldn't wait to see her get what was coming to her!

This story is not for the faint of heart, but neither was first-century Rome, and based on other books I've read, I don't think anything Ms. Quinn has included is far-fetched or unbelievable. This book has a killer ending--those final scenes were nail-biting, gut-wrenching thrillers, and I was kept guessing until the very last page. In her author's note Ms. Quinn reveals that she will be writing a follow-up book concentrating on two of the supporting characters, and I will be the first person in line to buy it! This one has earned its spot on my keeper shelf.

twelvejan [Alexandria] says

If I could reach for the stars, I would give it all to MOR <3

Have you ever read something that flows so smoothly, that the entire novel seems to unfurl in your mind to become such an epic movie? That is the brilliance of Mistress of Rome.

Quinn is a remarkable writer and storyteller. She flawlessly breathe life to her characters - each and everyone of them. She made you Thea, the slave girl turned singer turned Mistress of Rome. She made you understand Thea's pain, love, and heartbreak; when she was mistreated by her mistress or when she had to service her master; when she fall in love and got separated from her lover, Arius, The Barbarian; when she had to succumb to the Emperor's dark peculiarities; and when she had to stand helplessly by the sidelines, watching her 12 year old son, Vix, fight for his life at a gladiatorial game.

Not only was I enthralled by the depth of the characters, I was equally captivated by the sights and sounds of Rome. She had penned the gladiatorial games with such precision, that I could imagine myself as one of the spectators in the packed tiers of the Colosseum - caught up in the violent and brutal display of the games and the midday execution. I could imagine the spectators showering the star gladiators with coins and flowers, could hear the screams of the tribunes, begging for mercy.

I am truly impressed by Quinn's smooth writing. She could easily sneak in flashbacks in every other paragraph, and it did not affect the film that was rolling in my mind. Impeccable. This has been such a marvelous journey, though I barely scratched the surface of the History of Rome.

P.S.: This novel spans across A.D. 81 to A.D. 96, so you gotta pay closer attention to the year to get a better understanding. IMO, i wish they indicated the period on every page, cos I'm forgetful like that. This gorgeous novel is highly recommended to all Historical Fiction/ Romance lovers! 5 HUGE stars from me. :)

But God, the cosmic joker, had said No. Never forget. Know everything about him, down to the bottom of his soul. Have the knowledge, when you can't have him. Have the memories, when you can't have him. Have a son with his smile, when you can't have him.

Sandi *~The Pirate Wench~* says

Its very rare that I give a book a 5 star rating ,but this book deserves it.This book from the start drew me into the story & the characters and wouldnt let go...I would put the book aside to slow down as I didnt want it to come to the end..and yet I kept picking it back up..and it kept drawing me back into Thea's & Arius lives & story.

The author writes in the first person for some of the characters which may seem confusing to some at first. But you get to know each person in their private life with shocking events that happened..and newer ones later in the book.You come to know their strengths as well as their weaknesses and why they do what they do to survive. A female "villian" in this book you will just hate..yet you need to find out next who she will betray..or ruin...its a deeply passionate love story with lots of intrigue & drama. Thea & Arius and the story have stayed with me long after I closed the book..looking forward to this authors next book!
