



Muses of Roma

Rob Steiner

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Marcus Antonius Primus began a golden age for humanity when he liberated Roma from Octavian Caesar and became sole Consul. With wisdom from the gods, future Antonii Consuls conquered the world and spawned an interstellar civilization. Three weeks before the millennial anniversary of the Antonii Ascension, star freighter captain Kaeso Aemelius, a blacklisted security agent from Roman rival world Libertus, is asked by his former commanders to help a high-ranking Roman official defect. Kaeso misses his lone wolf espionage days - and its freedom from responsibility for a crew - so he sees the mission as a way back into the spy business. Kaeso sells it to his crew of outcasts as a quick, lucrative contract...without explaining his plan to abandon them for his old job. But Kaeso soon learns the defector's terrifying secret, one that proves the last thousand years of history was built on a lie. Can Kaeso protect his crew from Roman and Liberti forces, who would lay waste to entire worlds to stop them from revealing the civilization-shattering truth?

Muses of Roma Details

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Billy Roper says

I think that the author deserved a better editor. In the acknowledgements the editor is given high praise, which might not be as deserved. But I hate to gripe. The missed linking words, and extra ones here and there, were the only mechanical problems with this otherwise very interesting science fiction book based in an alternate reality one thousand years after Marc Antony (in this reality) defeated Octavian...a thousand years in our current past. Because one of several sentient viral extra terrestrial civilizations called Muses infected him, and gave him the knowledge of advanced technology, he began a Roman civilization that conquered most of the Earth, and established an intergalactic empire. I love alternate reality yarns, being a fan of history. The use of virii as the agents of the change was very original. The story-telling and character development was very good. Even with the errors, I will give it a four out of five stars, and the best measure of all, I would read the anticipated sequel in what appears to be a new series. However, my humble advice to the author is to get a new editor.

Melody Vig says

I was lucky enough to be a first reader, and this book was great. As a English Lit major, I always enjoy a new twist on the classics. I will be passing this story on to friends and family to read.

D.M. Pruden says

An entertaining story told well. The idea of viral sentient races infecting other life forms as hosts was a creative driver for this alternate history of the Roman Empire. The pacing of the story was good and the characters were interesting enough to care about. I very much enjoyed the few hours I spent reading this story.

My only criticism is around the editing, as mentioned by other reviewers. It was only occasional and the story was strong enough to let me push past them, as annoying as they were. The biggest complaint I have is that characters of Lucia and Ocella are mixed up by the author at one point in the story.

Despite these minor complaints, it is a very good story, well told. I recommend it.

Cedar Sanderson says

It's a good read, with a good ending. The plot twists I had mostly figured out in advance, although there was one that caught me by surprise, always a good thing. I didn't catch any egregious story holes or editing issues, but that was mostly because Rob succeeded in pulling me into the world, and that is a very good thing indeed. Hard for me to lose myself in the story these days.

I loved the Belisarius Series, and there are strong elements in this book that remind me of that. But even more... guys, this is not Firefly fan fiction that I can tell. But if you liked that show, you are going to love this book. It's a curmudgeonly (but not that old) ship's captain, trying to keep his ship flying, with a crew

he's fiercely loyal to (not that he'll ever let them know that) and a heart of gold. It's got infections, for the Mad Scientist in me, and a plucky kid, and... oh, yeah, the ship model name is Falcon (wink, wink, nudge, nudge).

If you like your space opera to have Human Wave, then this one is it, because even more than one tiny crew fighting to survive, stay together, and care for a fallen comrade, this is about a quest to save the entire human race from slavery. They don't succeed, but they take a step. And the characters grow, and are changed, by the events they have undergone. It's a good read, and I enjoyed it. I hope you will, as well.

Nancy says

I won this book through the Goodreads First Reads giveaways.

A very satisfying sci-fi/alternate history story with a unique plot and good characterization. The author demonstrated his capable skills as a writer by giving us a story full of a number of twists and turns that had me saying 'gee, I didn't see that coming'.

Mr. Steiner's ability to meld the two genres of sci-fi & alternate history together was seamlessly achieved. I have read books where one or the other usually dominated.

At first the novel does give you a Firefly kind of feel....rogue Captain with a crew full of secrets piloting a spaceship and trying to stay under the radar, but character development is crisp and sharp, the plot is intriguing and the combination of the two allow the novel to reach its' full potential.

Not that the book does not have its' flaws. There were typo-o's and the inaccurate use of certain words but the story was so fast paced and gripping you just read past all of those inconsistencies.

Marcia says

In this science fiction/alternate history/space adventure, I liked the mystery of the muses and the gods and their relationship to the humans both of the Roman Empire that rose but never fell and the Liberti who opposed them. This is book 1 of the series and I'm looking forward to reading the next one.

Darlene Hintz says

[Muses of Roma] by [Rob Steiner] thoroughly enjoyed the book. At times I had a small problem keeping the characters straight, but that was a minor difficulty.

I kept relating the story to that of Ancient Rome and the Papacy..correlation here..you decide.

I would recommend [Muses of Roma (Codex Antonius Book 1)]

Joe Kendall says

This book was fantastic! It is a spin of history. A "what if Rome never fell?" Basically an alien virus takes control and starts feeding certain individuals new great technologies so that they can rule the galaxy. Now fast forward 1000 years. The human race has expanded on dozens of new planets if not hundreds. Problem is there are different viruses out there. So now Rome is no longer the only super power. And to top it off, the son of the emperor wants to defect. It is up to a Captain and his crew to dig out the truth behind the virus "gods" and what to do with this royal kid.

The book is well written and fast paced. It is a long book, but I flew through the pages. The characters for the most part are well developed. There are a few instances where the character development stalls out, but I'm assuming that these will be sorted out in the coming books. (view spoiler) That said, everything else in the book was fantastic. I loved the whole adventure and can not wait to read the next in the series. Thank you Goodreads for the book giveaway and thank you Rob Steiner for putting your book on it.
