



The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries)

By Caroline Lawrence

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The first in Caroline Lawrence's internationally bestselling Roman Mysteries series, re-issued with a fantastic new cover look.

Flavia Gemina is a natural at solving mysteries. The daughter of a ship's captain living in Ostia, the port of Rome, in AD79, she and her three friends, Jonathan, a Jewish boy (and secretly a Christian); Nubia, an African slave girl; and Lupus, a mute beggar boy, must work together to discover who is beheading the watchdogs that guard people's homes, and why.

A talented storyteller, Caroline Lawrence has created a delightfully readable and accessible series that children will want to read time and time again.

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The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries) By Caroline Lawrence Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this atmospheric debut novel, the first installment of a planned series, readers are whisked to the first century A.D. to help girl detective Flavia Gemina solve a brutal crime in the Roman port city of Ostia. When the guard dog belonging to Flavia's secretly Christian neighbors is slaughtered, Flavia sets out to find clues. She is accompanied by four trusty companions: Jonathan and Miriam, the Christian children; Nubia, a slave girl whom Flavia has recently acquired with her birthday money (with the purpose of emancipating her); and Lupus, a mute beggar boy. Many adventures later a pack of wild dogs chases them, they narrowly escape malicious slave traders and discover that their chief suspect has committed suicide by jumping from a lighthouse the children catch the culprit. Those looking for thrill-a-minute entertainment will find their fill of near-catastrophic events here, but the violence may be hard for some readers to stomach. Red herrings emerge too conspicuously and dialogue is sometimes stilted. Nonetheless, this historical mystery offers an intriguing glimpse into the customs, attitudes and class systems of the Roman empire. Ages 9-14.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6-This story takes place in the Roman port city of Ostia in the year A.D. 79. Flavia Gemina, daughter of a sea captain, is an accomplished amateur detective. Her companions include her neighbor, Jonathan; Lupus, a young beggar; and Nubia, an African slave about her age. When Jonathan's dog is beheaded and other canines are slain, Flavia and her friends set out to find the killer. Running from slave traders and wild dogs are only some of the dangers that they encounter. The book is fast paced, but another strength is its description of Roman life. The author provides a glimpse at the various classes that make up this society, and through the lives of the characters, readers learn about the attitudes, beliefs, and customs of the period. The treatment of slaves and the confusion about Christians are just some of the facts that are included. Vivid descriptions of the architecture, economy, and politics lend an authentic note. The information is skillfully woven into the story, providing details that heighten readers' interest. An enjoyable mystery, and more.

Lana Miles, Duchesne Academy, Houston, TX

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-7. First in a series of historical whodunits from Great Britain, this pits intrepid young sleuth Flavia Gemina and three newly met companions against the perpetrator of a series of ghastly animal killings. Lawrence expertly puts her young characters into their first-century C.E. context without making them seem too alien, and she convincingly develops their friendship, although Flavia's friends come from very different backgrounds--one is the son of a Jewish convert to Christianity; one is an African slave; and one is a tongueless beggar. One dog after another is found without its head, and the most obvious suspect commits suicide partway through the fast-paced story. Lawrence has worked in several gory incidents, along with pulse-pounding chase scenes, risky behavior, vivid descriptions (a menacing slave dealer "had one blind eye; a horrible milky orb that sat in its socket like a peeled egg"), hidden treasure, and, best of all, plausible clues that ultimately lead Flavia to the real culprit. A street map of ancient Ostia prefaces this rousing companion to Mary Ray's *Ides of April* (1975) and Henry Winterfield's classic *Detectives in Togas* (reissued in 1990).

John Peters

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marian Jackson:

Here thing why this specific The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries) are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it depends in the content of it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries) giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no guide that similar with The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries). It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your means home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries) in e-book can be your choice.

James Horowitz:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book The Thieves of Ostia (The Roman Mysteries) it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book features high quality.

Patrick Siemens:

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