



The Silver Eagle

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The second novel in the Forgotten Legion Chronicles takes Romulus, Brennus, Tarquinius and Fabiola, and places them in ever greater danger.

The Forgotten Legion — ten thousand legionaries made captive by the Parthians — has marched to Margiana on the edge of the known world. In its midst are Romulus, Brennus and Tarquinius, all men with good reason to hate Rome. Together the trio must face the savage tribes which constantly threaten the area. But other, more treacherous enemies lurk within the ranks of the Forgotten Legion itself. When all hope is lost, the three friends' characters will be tested to the utter limit.

Meanwhile in Rome, Fabiola, Romulus's twin sister, also fights to survive. Beset by enemies on all sides, she must travel to Gaul to find her lover, Caesar's right-hand man. There, tribal rebellion under the charismatic chieftain, Vercingetorix, threatens not just Caesar's route to power, but his life and the lives of all who support him.

The Silver Eagle Details

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From Reader Review The Silver Eagle for online ebook

Graham says

A follow up to THE FORGOTTEN LEGION, and the second part of a trilogy. I wanted to like THE SILVER EAGLE, because I really enjoyed the first outing, but I have to admit that I struggled with this one. I get the impression that the author was struggling with "second book syndrome" at the time and that this one was a real chore to write. Sometimes it's a real chore to read.

The problems with the story are numerous. For instance, the female character, Fabiola, is exceptionally weak and merely exists to allow Kane to have eyes and ears around the major historical characters of Brutus and Caesar. The long chapters featuring her as a protagonist are pretty dull, it has to be said. Thankfully, the battle stuff with Romulus, Tarquinius and Brennus is much better, and packed with all of the violent death and well-described fight scenes that you could hope for.

One thing I did notice is that Kane relies far too much on signs and symbols, on portents, and on precognition to build foreboding and suspense in his story. This allows him to build up to major events that the characters would otherwise have no knowledge of. It does feel a bit weak and I would have preferred a straightforward and realistic narrative without all this stuff. Still, despite all of these detractors, this is still a readable novel and the Roman period comes sparkling to life. In places the narrative flies along particularly when the years start skipping by. I expect to finish the final book in the trilogy, THE ROAD TO ROME, although I hope it's more like the first book than this one.

Jonathan McKay says

Great story

Well written, well edited, the second volume of a damn good story. So why the low score? The first book I found hard to follow as the various characters joined up. This one is much simpler to follow but each time it flips to another character it ends in a crisis, in the best tradition of soap operas, or even Dickens. A trifle unnecessary.

AV AV says

Pagina's lang verslaglegging over de verschillende veldslagen die zijn gevoerd. De wreedheid, massaliteit en intensiteit van de gevechten worden beeldend geschreven. Je zou er genoeg van krijgen ware het niet dat ik geïnteresseerd ben in zo'n beschrijving en natuurlijk ook: hoe vergaat het de hoofdfiguren? Jammer, ik ben al aangekomen bij het derde deel van deze trilogie.

Víctor says

La segunda parte de esta trilogía está cargada de acción que transcurre a un ritmo trepidante, quizás a uno

demasiado acelerado. Puede pecar de no tener grandes momentos de dramatismo, pues llegado el punto la trama se desenvuelve a pasos agigantados.

Personalmente se me ha hecho muy repetitiva la parte religiosa y se le da una importancia que no se si realmente debería tener.

Destacar el intento del autor por mantener el rigor históricos, sobre todo en las numerosas batallas. Veremos si el tercer libro supera a sus antecesores.

Dicho esto, es un buen libro ambientado en el mundo romano que me ha atrapado y me deja con la miel en los labios. Tengo muchas esperanzas depositadas en el tercer libro.

Carlos says

Esperaba mucho leer este libro, ya que es la segunda parte de la trilogía. Creo que fue fácil enganchar con el libro, principalmente porque lo leí inmediatamente después del primero, entonces ya venía "enchufado" con la historia. Dicho esto, no me decepcionó en lo absoluto.

La continuación de la odisea que tienen que enfrentar los protagonistas. Rescato mucho la variedad de lugares que se mencionan y escriben en el libro. La cantidad de países, ciudades y diferentes culturas con la cual Romulus y compañía se encuentran en el camino, también la variedad de "animales nuevos" que aparecen.

Para mí, una novela en la cual todo es felicidad no es totalmente buena. Aquí sí hubo tristeza ¡Y mucha! Hubo un par de páginas que hicieron que mi corazón se destrozara en pedazos. Si bien es triste, hace que la historia sea aún más encantadora.

Tal como en el libro anterior, es fácil enamorarse, o en este caso, seguir enamorándose de los personajes, ya que *"cada uno tiene su propio destino"*.

Quizás el final me dejó con sabor a poco, pero muy poco, así que no es nada importante. Veremos que trae la tercera parte y final, que empezaré a leerla ahora ya.

¿Recomendable? ¡Oh, sí! Hace mucho que no leía novelas históricas y había olvidado qué tan buenas eran, las que están bien escritas y son interesantes, claro.

Joseph says

Oh well, oh well, oh well...

How disappointed I was back in October 2011 when I first began reading 'The Silver Eagle'. I felt It had retained none of what had captivated me in 'The Forgotten Legion'.

Then however I determined I would restart the book and after another couple of months procrastinating, I grudgingly picked it up again. Obviously, back in October I was suffering from some kind of bowl loosening brain malady to have thought how I had! I fell straight back into the story as if it had been days and not months.

If you've read and liked the first installment, then you'll love this next one. Ben Kane really does write a good tale, equally as enjoyable as the first can't wait for the third.

Yossi says

Mithris help me this book is a boring read. The writing style is never changing and after a while you can anticipate the next sentence (his heart sank, her heart rose). The story relies too much on "the gods" and too many coincidences. The characters are too perfect to be real - beautiful, smart, never failing. No real fun. I will probably finish the trilogy just from completeness sake, but Jupiter knows where I'll get the energy for that.

Julián Gómez says

Hay varias cosas que decir de este libro, pero antes, es menester mencionar que me veo confundido con respecto a la calificación, no se si se merezca las 5 estrellas por ser excelente, o 4 estrellas por algunas falencias que encontré como lector.

The Silver Eagle o El aguila de plata es la segunda parte de la serie "La legión olvidada" que narra dos historias paralelas y que fácilmente enganchan al lector; afortunadamente NO es necesario haber leído el primer libro, "La legión olvidada", para empezar de cero con este. Pero ¿Por qué empecé con El aguila de plata y no con La legión olvidada?. Sencillo, cuando fui a la librería, este fue uno de los primeros libros que vi debido a su portada llamativa y al leer la contraportada me llamó demasiado la atención, -ignorando totalmente que se trataba de una trilogía- por lo que, me lo llevé a casa sin pensarlo dos veces. Ahora sin mas rodeos, haré una lista con lo bueno y lo malo del Águila de Plata.

Lo Bueno:

- Dos historias paralelas, increíbles, magnificas, estupendas, que enganchan al lector muy rápidamente.
- Mucha acción, mucha adrenalina en las batallas que se van narrando con todo lujo de detalle.
- Un libro que abre mucho la mente a grandes imaginaciones de la época romana del siglo I a.C.
- Personajes bien hechos, muy profundos y con cierto toque de inteligencia.
- Los datos de las batallas en su mayoría son reales. Dando poco lugar a la ficción, salvo algunos personajes.

Nombraría más aspectos pero con estos 5 son más que necesarios.

Ahora bien, unas pocas cosas negativas de este libro también tienen que ser mencionadas, aspectos en los que en las reseñas que he leído, he estado completamente de acuerdo.

Lo malo:

- Debido a tantas batallas, se hace un poco repetitivo la victoria de los protagonistas de la serie; es como si contaran con una suerte estratosférica que hace a veces muy predecible el final de muchas luchas por las que atraviesan los protagonistas.
- Algunos fragmentos son bastante fuertes si uno lo imagina, pero que el autor menciona con toda la normalidad del mundo. Para comprender mejor, al autor le faltó un poco mas de suspenso y dramatismo en las situaciones criticas.
- Una ENORME cantidad de términos en Latín que hacen que la lectura sea un poco torpe y lenta a veces, haciendo revisar el glosario prácticamente en cada pagina en algunos capítulos.
- Relacionado a lo anterior, el glosario es inmenso y muchos términos son de casi una pagina, cosa

sumamente exagerada para definir algo sencillo (ej: armas, dioses, lugares).

Puede que haya hecho énfasis en las cosas negativas del Águila de Plata, eso no quiere decir que sea un libro regular ni malo, todo lo contrario, es uno de los mejores libros que he leído y también uno de los mejores en su género. Con sus falencias y todo, estas se ven prácticamente apanadas por las cosas BUENAS que hay en él.

El final da obviamente para la tercera parte, llamada "Camino a Roma" que prontamente estaré comprando. Así que, cerrando esto. Recomendando el libro 100%.

Calificación: 4.8/5.0

Janine Southard says

I really wanted to like this one. It's got Romans. It's got former slaves who became prostitutes (and gladiators) and worked their wily ways to freedom. It's got a soothsayer whose prophecies come true. It's got travel throughout the Ancient world. Plus, I really liked the first book in this series, *The Forgotten Legion*.

Unfortunately, it doesn't have:

- * character development
- * suspense
- * active verbs

Also unfortunately, it *did* have lots of "what has gone before" at the beginning. This is quite sensible in a sequel...for a page or three. But for the first few chapters? That's a bit too much! And the sudden multi-year jumps, one after the other, completely threw me.

Though I cared deeply about the characters during the last book, I had a hard time in this one. In fact, by the time that (view spoiler)

If I could grab book 3 in my local library, I might give it a go, but *The Silver Eagle* has convinced me to stop reading this series. Since this series isn't easy to find in the USA, that'll never happen. (I started reading it in Scotland and had to import the second book. (Thanks, Amazon.com!))

Leigh Library says

Now fighting for the Parthian Empire on the borders of the known World. Romulus, Brennus and Tarquinus and the Forgotten Legion desperately struggle against treachery within and Overwhelming odds without before fate places them on the road to Italy.

Fabiola now convinced of her and Romulus's parentage, plots her revenge and bides her time. However events back in Rome force her to flee a new and implacable enemy. The struggle between Pompey and Julius Cesare rushes to civil war, when unrest in Rome forces Cesares Army newly back from Gaul, to cross the River Rubicon to restore order. The fate of an empire lies in the hands of History.

Christopher Taylor says

This one sat by my bed a while because I'm getting a little burnt out on 900 page tomes. I read the first book a while back and enjoyed it fairly well, but haven't been exactly itching to read the sequel.

The Silver Eagle is set in ancient Rome, during Julius Caesar's life. One of the members of the Triumvirate of Croesus, Pompey, and Caesar - Croesus, heads to what is modern day Iran to fight the Parthians, and was wiped out. An entire legion of Roman soldiers is destroyed or captured, and in these alternate history novels, was forced to fight for the Parthians as mercenaries.

The books follow the lives of twins named Fabiola and Romulus, who are separated in the first book after being enslaved. Romulus gets into the legions having fled the gladiator pits and Fabiola is taken as a prostitute. By the end of the first book, Fabiola has escaped her life with Brutus (yes, that Brutus) and Romulus is now working for the Parthians.

This book covers more of their life, as they move through Roman history. The story is interesting and holds attention, but is marred by being so heavily contrived. Swapping back and forth between characters each chapter, they continually are facing incredibly awful situations as everything keeps going not just wrong but as badly as possible, no matter how unlikely and forced it might be, then getting out of it over and over.

Fabiola spends the book a perpetual victim with virtually no purpose in the novel, and Romulus keeps having the worst situations and coincidences keep happening, facing pointlessly sadistic people he cannot retaliate against. Despite this, the situations and descriptions, historical details, and combat sequences are quite engaging, so the book still works, but I can't really recommend it.

Beorn says

The thing that frustrates me most about Ben Kane's books is that picking one up can be such a hit and miss event.

There are books where you devour it with relish and really invest in the characters, yet there are others that are just the archetype of staid, wooden and cardboard devoid of anything of note.

The most baffling thing of such inconsistency is that Kane is notably talented as crafting realistic human emotion & characters and, most often separately, one of the most consistently skillful at descriptions of battle scenes and personal contributions. The trouble lies in the fact that more often than not, Kane prefers to focus on one over the other - for example, in the opening book of his Hannibal series, it was the human element that took precedence; in the sequel, the battle scenes - often at the expense of the reader's enjoyment.

That at least is my theory as to why I found myself enjoying, or rather not hating, this book. The story manages to balance both human stories and the various battles & military points. Possibly around 60:40 in favour of the human element.

There are some neat, if not quite genius, tricks used to deflect you just when you think you know where the story is leading.

Altogether a distinct improvement on the opening book in the series.

Robin Carter says

With the Roman genre rapidly expanding it is not easy to keep up with all the new authors in the genre. It is also not so easy to know who is worth your ££ and pence and who isn't.

Ben Kane is one I can assure you is worth it. After the first book I was hooked, his mix of fact fiction and Myth sets the book apart from the usual mundane, add in the pace and characterisation of the calibre of Scarrow and Riches and you get an idea of his skills.

I'm well and truly left adrift at the end of each book gagging for the next one longing to know what will be the next episode in the lives of these new friends I have made (Romulus, Brennus, Tarquinius & Fabiola) add to that the tantalising hints at parentage the back drop of the Roman, Scythian, Etruscan and many other worlds and you can see why Ben Kane is a new power in this Genre, long may he remain.

(Parm)

Jim C says

This is a historical fiction novel and the second of a trilogy. The first one must be read before this one. The Roman Empire is on the brink of civil war. We continue to follow our main characters during this time period. Romulus, Brennus, and Tarquinius are still serving in the Forgotten Legion and still hoping to make it back home to Rome. Fabiola is still searching for her twin brother, Romulus, while being Brutus' lover.

This isn't my usual type of genre read but I do love this author's novels. I believe the main reason is the writing style and how he tells the story. His characters are currently apart. He will devote one chapter to a particular character and when something exciting is about to happen he will switch to the other character. This entices me to keep on reading as I am dying to find out what was going to happen. I have always been a sucker for this type of story telling. He also does an excellent job with the setting as I can really envision how people lived way back then. This novel really can be broken down to two concepts and they are family and friendship. Any reader can understand these concepts as these characters make sacrifice after sacrifice for these concepts.

I am loving this series even though it is out of my reading realm. The realism is terrific even though it can be gory and brutal. The battle scenes are well written and one can tell the author has done his research for this time period.

Bailey Wallace says

The second novel in the compelling Forgotten Legion trilogy is a 50/50 split of heart-racing can't put down chapters and boring, unrealistic chapters. The story follows Romulus, Tarquinius, and Brenus as they continue fighting different enemies at the edge of the known world, Margiana, and within the Roman army. Back in Rome, Fabiola is living happily with Brutus, until he is called away to help Cesar with his campaign in Gaul and an incident with a group of slave hunters leaves Fabiola fighting for her life.

Overall, I enjoyed reading this novel, but found the constant battle scenes and near death experiences redundant and overdramatized. While I appreciate Kane's detailed description of Roman battle strategies and techniques, I was no longer excited to read another battle scene where his characters faced ridiculous odds yet somehow survived with mere scratches or bruises. Even Fabiola's story line, which I usually cannot get enough of, left me wanting. Kane's descriptions of the different cities his characters visit and everyday aspects Roman, Greek, Parthian, and other cultures kept me reading this book. While it was not nearly as good as the first book, I'm looking forward to reading the final book in the trilogy.
