



The Roman

Mika Waltari

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s/t: The Memoirs of Minutus Launsus Manilianus, Who Has Won the Insignia of a Triumph, Who Has the Rank of Consul, Who Is Chairman of the Priests' Collegium of the God Vespasian & a Member of the Roman Senate

The Roman is a superb reconstruction of a time long ago, the Roman world in the time of the Emperors Claudius & Nero. It's the story of Minutus, of noble birth, he serves the government & travels widely thru the Empire, from his home in Antioch to the seat of world power, Rome.

The Roman Details

Date : Published June 1966 by G.P. Putnam's Sons (NYC) (first published 1964)

ISBN : 9789997409027

Author : Mika Waltari

Format : Hardcover 572 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Classics

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SethMantel says

Not one of the essentials, like Dark Angel, the Egyptian, or the Secret of the Kingdom, but another sensational entry nonetheless.

Janne Paananen says

Mika Waltari oli nero. Sitä ei pääse mihinkään. Hänen historiallisten romaanien ajankuvaus on käsittämättömän tarkkaa ja todentuntuista. Ihmiskunnan viholliset kertoo roomalaisen Minutus Manilianuksen elämän hänen itsensä kertomana. Ajallisesti tarina sijoittuu Jeesuksen kuoleman jälkeisiin vuosiin 46-79 jKr. Minutus kokeen rakkaudet ja menetykset, poliittiset juonittelut, juutalaisten ja kristityjen väliset uskonopilliset eripurat, sotaretket ja fyysiset sekä henkiset kärsimykset. Minutus kuitenkin menestyy lähes kaikessa mihiin lähtee mukaan. Hän vaurastuu taloudellisesti ja päättyy lopulta Rooman senaattiin. Samalla hän seuraa läheltä keisari Neron valtaannousun ja tuhon.

En kuitenkaan myötälänyt Minutukset elämää aivan yhtä vahvasti kuin Sinuhen. Siltikin erinomainen opus. Hyllyssä odottaa jo Valtakunnan salaisuus, jonka päähenkilö on Minutuksen isä.

Delphine says

Sur les pas du jeune (puis moins jeune) Minutus, le lecteur découvre Claude, Vespasien, Agrippine, les apôtres Paul, Pierre et Luc, Pétrone, Messaline, Simon le Magicien, Titus, Claudia, Octavia, Popée, Britannicus, Domitien, Flavius Josèphe et bien évidemment Néron, dont Mika Waltari nous raconte l'incroyable règne. Minutus, jeune homme dont le père est secrètement devenu chrétien, part en Bretagne. Puis, il revient à Rome où il devient l'ami du futur Néron, sous le règne de Claude.

Déçu par son ami, bien des années plus tard, il rencontrera les conspirateurs qui se réunirent autour de Pison.

Ce très beau roman historique montre bien les débats qui scindèrent la communauté juive entre Juifs orthodoxes et chrétiens. Rome s'achève sur des scènes de cirque terribles, avec l'exécution de Pierre et Paul, entre autres.

Martina says

Forget Dan Brown, Mika Waltari is the best historical novel writer ever. One feels as if reading memoirs of a contemporary writer, regardless if the novel is situated in ancient Israel, Egypt, Roma or elsewhere. Logical sequence, appropriate portion of facts, well built plot and wonderfully depicted characters. Another common trait of all these books is a message of humanity, love, down to earth way of thinking and maybe a bit of a resignation about a vanity of a human life blended with desire to live it in full. This must be a true gift and enormous human efforts to write such novels!

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Ihmiskunnan viholliset = The Roman (The Manilianus Duology #2), Mika Waltari

The Roman (original title Ihmiskunnan viholliset, which translates to Mankind's Enemies) is a fiction novel by Mika Waltari published in 1964. Set in Rome, the book is a sequel to The Secret of the Kingdom, a novel about the early days of Christianity. The protagonist and narrator is Minutus, the son of Marcus, the main character of the previous novel. Minutus is a Roman citizen striving to survive without political entanglements.

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mixal says

1.7 stars

The beginning was very promising, but the book became unbelievably tedious once it started to focus on early Christians. Continued reading in hope that it would get better, but it was a mistake.

Katrin says

I always wanted to read a book by Waltari, since he is one of the Finnish writers who is also known outside of finland. I stumbled upon this one first, so i finally read the heavy thing. It was entertaining and the story was interesting, mostly for my historical interest in ancient greece and rome. so it was enjoyable on that part, but it just was dragging out too long for me. I couldn't see a real climax of the book, it more or less rumbles on like a steady river, that is good enough, but i expected a bit more from this book to be honest.

Jane says

Excellent historical novel -- the fictional memoir of a Roman patrician, written for his son. It spans many decades: from Emperor Claudius's reign until Domitian.

The hero fights with the II Legion in Britannia. His loves, his stint as beastmaster for the arena, government

positions and postings to far-flung corners of the Roman Empire are all detailed, against the backdrop of Roman political upheaval. Always, the theme of Christianity, that small, proscribed sect, runs through the story, and influences the climax, given in an epilogue. Written more than 50 years ago, there are some factual errors but it is surprisingly well researched for those days. The book bogged down in Nero's reign and became tedious for awhile, then picked up again. The book probably could have used a more judicious editor at the part on Nero's reign. It is the 2nd volume in a duology: the first volume being The Secret of the Kingdom.

Rikhard Tolonen says

It was an interesting story about the Roman empire and beginning of Christianity. Mika Waltari has a superb sense of humor.

Denise says

The story of Minutus Launsus Manilianus, a Roman living during the time of Emperors Claudius and Nero. He can't seem to decide what career he should pursue (he's bad at all of them). He does everything and anything he can to look out for his own interests. Seeking to be ever at the center of power and fame, he sucks up to Emperor Nero (who considers him a fool). Invited to view the killing of criminals in the arena, he is shocked to see his own son in the throng but does nothing to save him even though the Emperor is sitting nearby. Afterwards he mentally finds fault with some actions his son has supposedly done and thus justifies his son's cruel death to the point of deciding that the boy deserved his fate!

Well-written tale that had me turning pages just to see what new explanations Minutus could dream up for his strivings.

Liviu says

this is the gold standard for bumbling anti-hero tale narrated in his own words; alternates between funny and wrenching and has been a perennial favorite of many including the famous plagiarism case and a few homages

Tomi says

Waltarin teos kuvaaa käsittämättön hienolla tavalla ensimmäisten kristittyjen elämää antiikin ajan Roomassa.

Geoff Boxell says

Another of my bargain buys. I bought this in 1973 for NZ \$0.45c. At that time I did a lot of night shift work with little to do and I read it in a week (639 A5 sized pages). Now, 2018, I am retired, but it took me 3 weeks

to read. Well in the NZ winter it is the European summer and my spare time is taken up not just with part-time work and correspondence connected with my history research but with watching motorcycle speedway (much is Polish or Swedish, so maybe I should try and learn those languages). But, it was not just other distractions, as I still usually manage to get through a book this size in a week or less. Others have given an outline of the story, so I won't go there, all I will do is comment on *Minutus Lausus Manilianus*, whose fictional biography this is.

Agrippina: "You are the most gullible fool I've ever met, I think."

Nero: "But my own judgement tells me that you are more stupid than far sighted ..."

I felt like slapping his legs so many times that I had to stop reading and do something else till I had re-settled my mind. In addition to being gullible and stupid, he is untrustworthy and very happy to dob in or betray anyone, even friends, if he feels his position is at risk.

Rome was totally corrupt, disingenuous, and had little thought for human life, and this book shews that well. I have read the book twice now, but I am not sure I will trouble my self again.

Julio A. Cervantes says

This was a fun little read, and I would gladly recommend it to anyone interested in Roman history. The being said, the story is focused heavily on the side Roman Empire.

Snow White says

One of those rare books that makes you forget you're reading a story, and instead makes you feel like you've been put in a time-machine and are now looking into real Roman society, and into real people's lives.
