



Rise of the Wolf

Jennifer A. Nielsen

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Nic may have escaped enslavement in the mines outside of Rome, but his troubles are far from over. The Praetor War -- the battle to destroy Rome from within -- is in full force, and Nic is caught in the crossfire. The secretive Praetors are determined to unlock a powerful amulet -- one sure to bring the empire to its knees. Worse, the Praetors believe Nic holds the key to finding this amulet, and they will stop at nothing to steal it, even if that means harming the people Nic holds most dear.

When the Praetors capture Nic's mother, Nic knows he must do anything to save her. He challenges the Praetors to a chariot race. If he wins, they will release his mother. But if he loses, he must hand over a magic that will certainly bring about the end of Rome -- as well as his own life. Can Nic once again harness his magic and gather the strength to defeat his enemies? Or will he lose his mother and bear witness to Rome's destruction?

Rise of the Wolf Details

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Author : Jennifer A. Nielsen

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From Reader Review Rise of the Wolf for online ebook

Jan says

I liked the first book and mostly understood what was going on, but this second book in the trilogy alternately either bored or confused the heck out of me. The whole book finds Nic constantly engaging in battle after battle with either the Praetors, Decimas Brutus, or chariot riders hired to make him lose the race by any means possible. And Nic's reaction is always to shoot out magic, think about shooting out magic, or be prevented from shooting out magic by the Praetors, who can stop magic with their touch. Made my head hurt.

Don't even get me started on all the magical powers of the bulla, Jupiter stone, or Malice of Mars because I couldn't keep them all straight, or remember what each of them did or why, or how they were used to do something that in all reality made no sense to me. I thought after reading both the entire Percy Jackson and Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan that I would understand this one. Um, no. Those series made sense and were highly entertaining. I know I'm in the minority here with this review, but this series is not turning out to be the exciting series I hoped it would be.

rachel • typed truths says

#1) Mark of the Thief ★★???

#3) Wrath of the Storm ★★???

3.5 stars

Rise of the Wolf completely stepped up the mark from the first book. It was entertaining and fast-paced. The plotline completely swept me up. I was engaged by the scavenger hunt-like adventure. I did think that the characterisation was still lacking and Nic made rash, impulsive decisions that irritated me. But as a whole? It was much more cohesive and enjoyable.

Justine says

4.5 stars

An excellent middle book in the series. I cannot say enough about how much the narrator, MacLeod Andrews, added to experience of listening to the audiobook. He did a great job with accents, voices, and just overall emotive reading of the story.

The story itself was very well paced and, although there weren't any real surprises, it was thoroughly enjoyable. I listened to this with my kids (9 and 12) and they absolutely loved it.

Pranta Ghosh Dastider says

How to explain this book?

Imagine a handful of grains. And throw them on the floor. Now slowly discover each of them is getting connected. Then as you are nearing to end the final connections, it abruptly ends (in a cliffhanger)!

So this book was indeed a 5 star read. So much ups and downs. I could guess and guess again and guess again, while they match to some extent, they weren't exactly so by the end. That's why I was very happy with many outcomes.

There is many many twists and turns and ever single thing (I repeat) EVERY GODDAMN SINGLE THING will come to play their part. Nothing is trivial. Lines are linked up to the end and even possibly to the next book. And this is why I like Jennifer's writing. She is witty, clever dialogs, turning relationships around, mistreated love with multiple probability keeps hanging throughout, and always so much at stake. All these mixed so well and so nice you got to like her writing.

Specially this book had chariot races, magic and so much action! In this one, Neilsen has outdone herself.

I have only one complain (and its serious)... this book ends on a cliffhanger. There wasn't any need, no need at all. I feel bad and sad at the same time. But since I have enjoyed most of the book I will not hold back one or two stars and disgrace the hard work the author has done to entertain me. Yes I did like the book, very very much.

Go read this one, but not without reading the first book of the series. And better read it after the third book comes out (hopefully next year!)

Colleen Houck says

The chariot race was so vivid, I felt like I was there. I really like the twist of magic and fantasy creatures layered over ancient Rome.

Avery (ThePagemaster) says

I read this book a little slower than Mark of the Thief, but it is just as intense--if not more--than the first book.

Not to give away much, but the basis around this installment is a chariot race, which reminded me a lot of Ben Hur; though I haven't seen the original all the way through, nor the reboot that came out a few months ago. Chariot races, in Ancient Rome, were about as intense as a boxing match or a football game, and you feel the tension throughout the novel.

As the second book in a trilogy, this book does take the time to build up the characters more, but it's not the bulk of the novel, and you see a lot of it between Nic and Radulf. Nic is still struggling with being "Public Enemy #1", all while just trying to get freedom for him and his family that he thought were long gone; Radulf, I thought, would be the antagonist throughout the series, but with the twist you find at the end of the first book, he begins to understand the toll Nic's misadventures and torture (even at his hands) take.

****I may have come to the point of my review where I cannot, coherently, write it to the extent of other reviewers, but I believe you can translate what I am trying to say: READ this book series!****

Leah says

I really liked this book, and I'm looking forward to the next book. I still liked the main characters, and I have even started to like Nic's grandfather. I hope Aurelia and Nic are married by the end of the series. If they aren't at least a couple, I will be upset. The setting and the magic are still interesting, and I liked the chariot races.

Amy B says

A pretty disappointed 3 stars. :(The first half of the book was so clunky, so cluttered, I felt like I was reading a rough draft. Nic ran here and there, from one person's house to the next, escaping from one place only to end up right back where he was. What's the point of that for the reader? It all seemed to be a misshapen set up for the chariot race, as if the author knew she wanted a chariot race and so had to force everything in the book to lead to it even though I could not think of one logical reason why this chariot race would happen.

His relationships with Aurelia, Crispus, Livia, and his grandfather were disappointing too, because they never actually happened.. You know what I mean? He talked about them. - I love Livia, my grandfather might actually care about me, I feel sorry for Crispus, etc. - but we never got to see these relationships.

I really liked Aurelia in the first book. She had a purpose. Now no one seems to have a purpose in the story except for Nic. Everyone else is just a dead weight. Really annoying dead weights. Aurelia keeps appearing randomly in the bushes with a bow....only to get captured or bargained over.

The second half of the book - the chariot race and tomb-excavation - was much better. It was exciting. The tomb part was maybe a little disjointed but that was okay. I understood why the author wanted a chariot race, but that didn't cancel out the fact that it didn't fit in the story. :\

Diane Lynch says

Jennifer A. Nielsen's *Rise of the Wolf* is another amazing book in the *Mark of the Thief Series*. The story takes place two months after book one, *Mark of the Thief*. This historical fiction/fantasy novel takes place during the Roman Empire three hundred years after Julius Caesar's death. The story is suitable for young adults.

Rise of the Wolf starts out with Nicolas Calva learning how to race chariots and living with his grandfather,

Radulf, and sister, Livia. Nic has a new group of adversaries, the Pretors, the judges and governors of Rome. They are headed by Decimas Brutus, a descendant of Marcus Brutus. The Pretors are a dangerous group that can stop magic with a touch. They worship the goddess Diana and want to destroy Rome. To do this, they want to use Nic by having him retrieve the Malice of Mars, a powerful amulet that gives the owner victory in battle.

Nic is a great character. He is strong, courageous, clever, and noble. Being a former slave, his ultimate goal is to have freedom. He has grown tremendously throughout this series. I felt he was much wiser than his older grandfather. I also like Aurelia. She has become a good friend to Nic. She is loyal and brave. She cares for the greater good.

I loved the introduction of Callistus the unicorn that Radulf gives to Nic. I also respected that Nic feels that the unicorn should be free.

My favorite quote in the novel was from the vestalis, "Victory comes in protecting those you love, not destroying those you hate," very wise words.

Jennifer A. Nielsen does a fantastic job with her descriptions in this story. I was especially impressed with how she explains the feel of the different types of magic. I loved the plot. It was well executed and thrilling. There was a great use of foreshadowing. There were unexpected plot twists. Nothing ever seemed to go as planned for Nic because his friends or family seemed to always unintentionally mess up his strategies. The ending was intense leaving me anticipating the next book.

I think people that enjoy Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians, and The Heroes of Olympus Series would enjoy the Mark of the Thief Series. I am very certain my thirteen-year-old son, and his friends would love this book and suggested they read it. The Mark of the Thief Series would make an excellent movie.

Complimentary copy provided in exchange for an honest review.

Kristen says

Ahhhhh! Why?! Why do I always start trilogies before all the books are out?

After Mark of the Thief I said I didn't like this series as much as I liked The False Prince, but this one might have changed my opinion. It was AMAZING. Poor Nic is still fighting to save his family and Rome, and every time you think he's close...something horrible happens. (The story kind of reminds me of a tamer Red Rising that takes place in the past instead of in space.)

More action, more twists...just really cool. I've been listening to the audio books, which are fabulous--but I don't think I'll be able to wait for the third audio book. I'll probably be getting it as soon as it comes out in hardcover!

Jennifer Nielsen says

So we'll get the most obvious thing out of the way first - of course I'm biased! But I honestly am so proud of this book - I sincerely hope you will all enjoy it. Be sure to read book 1 first, MARK OF THE THIEF. And when you finish, you will have so many questions - what happens to Nic now? What about his friendship with Aurelia and Crispus? What will happen to Nic's relationship with Radulf? Will Nic go after more amulets? All of them are answered in this book, although he is in so much trouble, it may just bring up brand new questions!

Also, if you decide to read this or any of my books, please know how grateful I am to you. There are hundreds of amazing books released each year. I am honored that one of mine might catch your attention. Thank you for reading. As long as you do, I will continue to write.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

This sequel to Mark of the Thief finds Nic involved in chariot racing as a way to escape the demands of the Praetors, but when they demand the key to the Malice so that he can create a Jupiter Stone for them and allow them to fight against the gods, Nic knows that he has to work with Crispus, his sister Livia, and the love of his life Aurelia to keep Rome safe. Given the lack of books set in ancient Rome, and the interest that middle grade readers have in it, this is a good addition to any middle school library.

Okay, admittedly, I had a bad case of fantasy amnesia with this one. I read it, I really did, but there was a lot of overwrought back-and-forth that went something like this:

"Give us the key to the Malice, Nic!"

"But I don't know where it is, you mean Praetors!"

"Yes, you do! Give it to us!"

"No, I don't! And I don't know how the bulla works, either."

"Yes, you do!"

"No, I don't!"

(Nic, to himself)"I want to keep my mother, my sister, and Aurelia safe, so even though I don't have the key, I'd better find it. Oh, look! I have my very own unicorn! And I can do magic!"

As in Nielsen's previous books, Nic gets hurt a lot, doesn't know whom to trust, and isn't quite sure what he's doing. I lost track of why he was racing chariots, especially since I was pretty sure he was too young to do so. At 352 pages, this was on the long side, although it is certainly doable for students who like fantasy. It could have been shorter if Nic just sucked it up and didn't manage to get caught by the Praetors so many times. And I know he doesn't like Radulf, even though he's his grandfather, but tying yourself to the chariot is pretty stupid if your enemies are going to try to have you thrown out of the chariot.

Pang says

PERFECT SEQUEL! Action-packed, twists, and romance. A lot of *romance* for me, I'm so pleased. This one is so much better than the first one, I can tell! The first one kinda introduce the world-building, history, and

stuff. But man, the main story just come full in this one. I even LOVE the characters so much more in this book. **Nick** my boy is just so strong, and sassy, and miserable (Why all the heros of this authur have to gone through shit life? Ugh!) But he is a fighter!!!

Aurelia is just awesome, so *awesome*. Love when she go through this shit beside Nick, she *help* him. (This is the heroine I want for my boy) **Their romance (amoung action) is my fave** I love when they fight each other, but beneath their bickering '*there is her caring feelings for him*' which made me rooting for them so hard!!!! This book is unputdownable! I just want to read, **read**, read, and **READ**.. and the climax scene is just soooo excting, I was hold my seat tightly. Where is the next book? GIVE IT TO ME NOW!!!!!!

Malia says

A little darker than "Mark of the Thief" which came before it, I quite enjoyed "Rise of the Wolf". Nic develops as a character, and the story gains greater depth. I am very glad I already have the next book, because it ends on a cliff-hanger that would leave me quite frustrated if I had to wait a year. An enjoyable series so far, I look forward to see how it concludes!

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Lucy Valeski says

First things first: I love Jennifer A Nielsen's writing. But this book was just not good. The romance is really weird and super awkward. The plot just had to many twists, and got tiresome. And Nic really was just a wannabe Sage(who is the main character in her other series. It is phenomenal, I highly recommend reading it) All the snarky comments or daring things he did were all things that I could totally see Jaron doing, but on Jaron it was super awesome and on Nic it was just stupid.
