

Caesar's Women Study Guide

Caesar's Women by Colleen McCullough

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Plot Summary

Caesar's Women written by Colleen McCullough details Gaius Julius Caesar's rise to power in Roman government and society. Set between the years of 68 B.C.-58 B.C., the novel chronicles his political successes as well as his relationships with certain Roman noblewomen. It gives readers an insight into Caesar's personal life and the world behind Roman politics.

Beginning in June of 68 B.C, Caesar returns home from Spain determined to make a name for himself. He, along with the support of his mother Aurelia, attempts to dominate the Roman Senate. Caesar competes for power against the likes of famous Roman senators such as Cicero and Cato, who form part of an elite conservative faction called the boni that seek to destroy Caesar. Using his wit and foresight, Caesar outmaneuvers his enemies and strengthens his bonds with his allies. In the ten years that Caesar remains in Rome, he is elected Pontifex Maximus, chief priest and head of the Roman state religion, and forms the First Triumvirate.

Along with his public victories, the novel also reveals Caesar's private and intimate life. He is a well-known ladies' man. One of his main conquests, Servilia Caepionis, is a keen and spiteful aristocrat who begins a long-term affair with Caesar. She is the wife of a Roman senator and the mother of Brutus, who will one day assassinate Caesar. Even though Caesar dislikes Servilia, he is intrigued by her intellect and perverse ambition. She becomes his permanent mistress. However, he shows her no love or kindness. He even takes on other lovers and remarries. He views these women and Servilia as disposable.

Despite being cruel with his lovers, Caesar is an affectionate father and patriarch. He adores his beloved daughter Julia, spoils his third wife Calpurnia, and highly respects his mother Aurelia. He even consults with his mother on certain political and social matters. When he assumes the role of Pontifex Maximus, Caesar becomes the legal guardian of the Roman Vestal Virgins. He treats them with tenderness and kindness. Even though Caesar cares for the women under his protection, he still keeps them at a distance. He loves them but he is a very practical and ambitious man. He even marries his daughter to Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus in order to secure his political ties.

Caesar becomes a senior consul of the Roman Senate and forms the First Triumvirate. When his term of consul ends, he becomes proconsul of Italian Gaul. With this office, Caesar sets out to achieve his ultimate goal of becoming one of Rome's most powerful men. In his wake, he leaves behind his devoted and loving women. They are Aurelia, Julia, Vestal Virgins, Calpurnia, and Servilia. All these women lament his departure and wait with great anticipation for his return.



Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C.:

Chapter 1

Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C.: Chapter 1 Summary

Caesar's Women recounts Gaius Julius Caesar's path to prominence in Roman politics during June of 68 B.C. through March of 58 B.C. It is a story which explores Caesar's political as well as private life.

Caesar returns to Rome after a fifteen month absence in the province of Spain. While in Spain, he serves as second in command to Governor Antistius Vetus. He forms a friendship with Lucius Cornelius Balbus Major and his nephew Balbus Minor. Balbus Major teaches Caesar all about accounting and Caesar uses this skill to fix the province's fiscal purse.

When Caesar arrives home, he is greeted by his mother Aurelia and his devoted daughter Julia. Aurelia is holding a social club meeting at the house where all of Roman's noblewomen come to discuss local affairs. At this gathering, Caesar meets Servilia Caepionius and they immediately delve into a battle of wits. She intrigues him with her political insight and intelligence. However, she patronizes him and he immediately brushes her off. Servilia is very taken with Caesar. She petitions Aurelia to set up a meeting between the two of them later on in the week. Servilia wants to speak with Caesar about Brutus's desire to marry Julia. Not only does Servilia succeed in arranging the engagement, but she and Caesar also begin a secret affair. Aurelia is privy to the affair and cautions Caesar to be careful of her.

Servilia is an aristocrat known for her intellect and cruelty. She constantly berates her half-brother Marcus Porcius Cato because of his slave ancestry and love of ancient traditions. Cato leads the boni faction, a group of wealthy and elite Roman senators who dislike any form of change and will fight with all their means to preserve tradition. Cato attempts to mentor Brutus and bring him under his wing, but Servilia forbids it. She fights viciously with Cato over Brutus, who is too afraid to defy his mother. Much to Cato's dismay, Brutus cowers to her every demand.

Once at home, Caesar discusses with Aurelia his future political plans. He wants to become Rome's First Man and he knows its going to take ten years. Aurelia warns him that Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus still views him as an enemy. Caesar jokes that he gets along better with foreigners than with Romans and knows that he will face strong opposition in the Senate from the boni faction. Caesar believes that the current Roman system of offices and the management of the provinces needs radical change. In order to attain this, he must build his own faction.



The day after his arrival Caesar puts on his Civic Crown and gathers his followers known as clients. Even though he is not a wealthy man, clients pledge their loyalty to him because of his ancestry. He sets out to the Roman Forum to present his financial accounts to the treasury. While there, he comes across his enemy Bibulus who attempts to bate him in a verbal fight. Always in control of his emotions, Caesar outwits him.

During his first year back in Rome, Caesar is elected by the Popular Assembly as the curator of Via Appia, a high road that connects Campania and lower Italy to the city of Rome. Even though it is a lowly office, it allows him to remain in the city as an urban quaestor, a position which handles the financial matters of a designated area or province. At this time, Caesar begins to cultivate his friendship with military commander Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus better known as Pompey the Great. Despite Pompey's claim that he is Rome's First Man, Caesar recognizes that Pompey has neither the ancestry nor the foresight to maintain that status. However, he is a great military commander who has increased Rome's empire and wealth. Toward the end of the chapter, Caesar speaks to Pompey about the growing piracy problems afflicting Rome. Pompey hints to him that he would love to gain a special military command to end the problem rather than remain in Rome.

Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C.: Chapter 1 Analysis

Gaius Julius Caesar is a patrician from the Julii clan. Patricians are aristocrats that have superior standing in Roman society because their families contributed to the founding of Rome. In the Roman government, ancestry plays a vital role in gaining the support of the senators and citizens.

Caesar is an ambitious man who is extremely intelligent and patient. He won the Civic Crown at the age of twenty, which gave him automatic admittance and right to speak in the Senate. Whenever he goes to public gathering and governmental sessions, he must wear it. Without speaking, Caesar personifies power and wants it.

He is determined to become Rome's First Man. This is a title given to a Roman who is the most powerful man of his time. This individual is greater than a dictator or a king because he maintains his position solely by his own personal power. He controls the Senate, Assemblies, and Roman military. In order to achieve this title, Caesar must create his own faction in the government. He must cultivate friendships and alliances with people who can help him down the road.

He begins with Balbus Major in Spain, who currently is a nobody in Rome. Caesar values his skills in banking and knows this man will be very useful to him one day. He also starts to strengthen his relationship with Pompey. Pompey has conquered many provinces, has been a senior consul of the Senate, and is extremely wealthy. Caesar knows that he will make a valuable ally. Finally, he willingly accepts a lowly office because it gives him time to rally support in Rome. All his actions reveal a man who is meticulous and disciplined.



As to his private life, Caesar confides in his mother with matters of politics and finance. He values her opinions and treats her as an equal. At a time when a woman's place is considered solely domestic, Aurelia is an example of the contrary. She takes care of the home, but she is heavily involved in her son's political and personal life. She knows how vindictive and intelligent Servilia is and she does not want this woman to destroy Caesar's political aspirations.

Servilia Caepio is a patrician from the Servilii clan. As a woman, she holds no rights and cannot inherit property except through senate approval. Despite these disadvantages, she is a dominant figure in the lives of her son and in Caesar's. Even though she is a woman, she has the brains and fortitude of a man in Roman society. Aurelia respects Servilia for her mind, but she warns Caesar to be careful with this woman. Aurelia's mistrust of Servilia hints at future problems that this woman may cause.



Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C: Chapter 2

Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C: Chapter 2 Summary

When the Sicilian grain is stolen in Ostia by pirates, Caesar seizes this opportunity to aid Pompey in attaining a special military command from the government. The boni and most of the Senate are fearful of Pompey because they do not want him to become a dictator like the infamous Sulla. Years before, Sulla abolished the Senate and took control of Rome. The government worries that if they give Pompey an Army he will use it to crown himself dictator. However, when grain prices rise that the Roman people riot, the Senate knows they must act.

Caesar keeps an eye on Pompey's elected tribunes of the Plebeian Assembly, Aulus Gabinius and Gaius Cornelius. These men are clients of Pompey's and work to ensure that he receives his special command and is elected consul for a second term. For months, Gabinius suggests that something must be done to eradicate the pirate problem but never mentions Pompey's name. Instead, he pushes through minor legislation which Caesar approves and takes notice. Gabinius and Caesar are friends from their military days together. Gabinius notes that Caesar fears nothing and is a better man than Pompey. Gabinius asserts that he will one day become Caesar's client.

During the Plebeian Assembly session, Gabinius skillfully tricks Cato to propose Pompey as the man who should be given the special command. Enraged, Cato calls a meeting of the boni which includes himself, Bibulus, Quintus Lutatius Catulus, Quintus Hortensius and Gaius Piso. They agree that they must stop the Plebeian Assembly from issuing Pompey a command. Pompey already leads a strong legion and his popularity is growing. Instead, they decide to propose the name of Marcus Licinius Crassus. Unfortunately, Caesar uses his friendship with Crassus to convince him to reject the nomination. Caesar advises Crassus to remain in Rome and reap the profits of pirate-free waterways. When the Senate convenes the following day, Caesar, wearing his Civic Crown, delivers a magnificent speech in support of Pompey. This convinces the Plebeian Assembly to give Pompey the special command.

During this time, Caesar continues his secret affair with Servilia. They share a passionate and liaison which consists of aggressive sex and political debates. Both conceal their emotions with each other. Caesar never knows what she is thinking and vice-versa. Servilia chooses her words and actions very carefully and this intrigues Caesar. In turn, Servilia is captivated with Caesar because of his strength and intelligence. This is the first time she has been with a man that is worthy of her. It is also her first lover out of wedlock.



When Servilia becomes pregnant with Caesar's child, she begs Caesar to seduce Atilia, Cato's wife. Servilia wants Cato to suffer as much as possible. He accepts and Servilia returns home to inform her husband Silanus of her infidelity. She has no shame in revealing her situation. She presents a logical argument as to why he should recognize the child as his own. Silanus, frail and sickly, does what Servilia asks with no protest. For years, he has allowed her to walk all over him.

When Aurelia hears a rumor of the affair between Caesar and Servilia from Crassus' s wife, she convinces Caesar to remarry in order to end any such rumors. She warns him that he should not make an enemy out of Silanus, also a senator, or allow their children to find out. It would create an unneeded scandal. Caesar concurs with her .Aurelia suggests that he marry Pompeia Sulla, granddaughter of Sulla. She is beautiful but unfortunately not bright. Once Servilia hears of this, she is enraged.

Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C: Chapter 2 Analysis

Caesar realizes he has underestimated Pompey. Pompey now knows how to manipulate the system. He has two tribunes that are very capable and intelligent. Through these men, Pompey is able to attain a special command without asking for it outright. It allows him to shine in the eyes of the Roman citizens and strengthen his power without looking like a possible dictator. The man who controls the military controls the governance. The boni know this and try to outsmart Pompey. They did not count on Caesar aided him.

The boni despise Pompey because of his growing power and lack of "real" Roman ancestry. Pompey comes from Picenum, an outlying Italian state, and is a descendant of the Gauls. They frequently criticize his Gaul-like features. For Romans, ancestry and parentage is supreme and dictates one's place in society. It is an insult to call a Roman a Gaul because it meant the person is a barbarian and non-Roman. A non-Roman is essentially a subhuman.

Caesar continues to gather supporters. He wins over intelligent and wealthy men such as Gabinius and Crassus through his logic and assessment of government situations. Caesar's skill to charm and out-think others foreshadows his strategy and action in becoming Rome's First Man.

As to Servilia, she defies social conventions. She treats her pregnancy in a very practical manner ordering her husband to accept because he has no other choice. He could divorce her, but he too afraid of her wrath and looking weak. She knows that she cannot resume her affair with Caesar until after her pregnancy, so she suggests that he seduce Cato's wife. In that way, they both get revenge on Cato and he enjoys himself sexually with a woman who is her inferior.

Servilia's plans are thwarted when Aurelia hears a rumor of Caesar and Servilia's affair. Aurelia knows that her son aspires to greatness and fears that Servilia may become a



liability. By having him marry Pompeia, Caesar will not only be free of any ill-repute, but also align himself with the family of the great Sulla. Even though Sulla is despised, he is still respected by the Roman citizens. Caesar's personal clout is greatly enhanced.



Part I June of 68 B.C.-March 66 B.C: Chapter 3

Part I June of 68 B.C.-March 66 B.C: Chapter 3 Summary

Servilia bears her third daughter Junia Tertia in the beginning of September. Despite being upset over Caesar's marriage, Servilia focuses her attention on acquiring her brother Quintus Servilius Caepio's fortune for her son. She believes that it is rightfully hers and her descendants. After speaking with her brother, she learns that Brutus is his heir. Overjoyed with this news, she bribes a trustworthy slave to poison Caepio. Caepio dies and Brutus inherits his entire fortune, which includes the Gold of Tolosa. At the age of sixteen, Brutus now named Quintus Servilius Caepio Brutus is one of the richest men in Rome.

Brutus shares this news with his betrothed, Julia. As much as his mother despises her brothers, Brutus cares for them greatly. He is quite distressed with the death of his uncle and his newly acquired wealth. Julia, now ten, comforts and listens to him. She cares and pities Brutus, but she does not love him. Her bores her and she is not sexually attracted to him. However, she knows her place in Roman society, and accepts her fate graciously. After Brutus leaves, she informs her father of the news. Caesar realizes the importance of Brutus's new wealth. He writes a note to Servilia requesting to see her and resume their affair.

Part I June of 68 B.C.-March 66 B.C: Chapter 3 Analysis

Servilia believes that Caepio's fortune is rightfully Brutus's. According to Servilia, Caepio is only her half-brother and not the son of her father. This is a criticism Servilia loves to lodge at Cato Servilia claims her mother committed adultery with Cato's father before she married him, which led to Caepio. In her eyes, he is not the heir to her father's fortune. Regardless of the truth, Caepio inherited her father's wealth, which includes the rumoured Gold of Tolosa.

Since Servilia is a woman, she is very limited in the ways that she can obtain power and wealth. She is a patrician, which means she is of noble birth, but like Julia, she is considered property. She lives vicariously through Brutus and Caesar. Smarter than most men, Servilia asserts her dominance over her husband and son.

Julia, on the other hand, accepts her place in society. She knows her father will use her in order to secure alliances and strengthen his wealth. Caesar is not a rich man and money means power. Brutus's new acquired wealth could definitely aid Caesar in



bribing elected officials and securing higher elected offices. Even though Julia considers Brutus a bore and unattractive, she graciously attends to him and shows no sign of her unhappiness to Brutus or her father. She loves her father so much that she is willing to sacrifice her happiness.



Part II March of 73 B.C.-Quinctilis of 65 B.C.: Chapter 1

Part II March of 73 B.C.-Quinctilis of 65 B.C.: Chapter 1 Summary

After being publicly slighted and humiliated, Publius Clodius vindictively accuses Fabia and other Vestal Virgins of unchaste acts with Lucius Sergius Catilina and Marcus Crassus. He loses the case because of his lack of hard evidence and haughty behavior. Cicero and Caesar try to warn him to control his temper and self-righteousness. As a result, important Roman families shun him, disgusted by his prosecution. As a result, he loses his opportunity to gain valuable experience in the Roman government. Unfazed, Clodius begins to compile a revenge list and frequents taverns. He enjoys being with outsiders and the lower classes. However, like Caesar, he too aspires to the title of Rome's First Man.

Clodius leaves Rome and departs to the east to join the personal staff of his brother-in-law Lucius Licinius Lucullus. Lucius ignores and dislikes Clodius. He tosses him aside and is more concerned with conquering the eastern kingdoms and gaining riches. Clodius resorts to hanging around the lowly soldiers and befriending men such as the leaders of the Fimbriani legions, Marcus Silius and Lucius Cornificius. He convinces them that despite his noble birth he is really one of them. They nickname him the Soldier's Friend. He invents a lie that Lucius has been cheating them out of the spoils of war. Mutiny stirs in the ranks and they openly refuse to obey Lucius's commands. In the end, Lucius loses his military command and it is given to Pompey. Pompey subdues the Eastern Provinces.

When Lucius discovers Clodius's treachery, he sends him to Quintus Marcius Rex, Clodius's brother-in-law in Cilicia. On his way there, Arabs rob him of all his treasures the soldiers gave him. Clodius puts the Arabs on his revenge list. While in Rex's care, Clodius suggests that he take a small fleet and clean Cilicia's waters of piracy. He hopes to capture pirate booty, but instead he gets captured. He tells the pirates to ask Ptolemy Cyprian to pay ten talents for his ransom. Ptolemy laughs and agrees to pay a mere two talents. This infuriates Clodius and he puts Ptolemy on his revenge list as well. Eventually, Clodius is freed from the pirates.

When Rex arrives in Antioch, Clodius begins his revenge against the Arabs. The areas of Syria, Antioch, Zeugma, Samosata, and Damascus were in complete chaos over the ownership of territory between the Greeks and Arabs. Clodius whispers in Rex's ear about the atrocious nature of Arabs and how they have usurped Greek territory and jobs. He also speaks to every Greek about the injustices they have endured because of the Arabs. As a result, Arabs begin to be murdered and harassed throughout the land. In order to stop this, Clodius is abducted by an Arab group and they circumcise him as a punishment.



Ashamed of his new condition, he leaves for Rome on the next available ship. When he arrives, his big brother Appius informs him that the wealthy heiress Fulvia wishes to marry him. She is the only child of Gaius Gracchus and stands to inherit a fortune. She is a beautiful and intelligent woman, who shares Clodius's rebellious and impulsive nature. She demands that he remain faithful to her. He reassures her of this by telling her about his circumcision.

Content with his life in Rome, Clodius decides to once again seek revenge on Catilina. He prosecutes him, but this time with skill and intelligence. He loses, but gains the admiration of both Cicero and Caesar. Clodius tells Caesar that they have a mutual friend, Marcus Silius. He informs Caesar that Silius and the Fimbriani have enlisted with Pompey as he attempts to subdue the eastern kingdoms. Caesar ends the conversation by telling him that he is going to watch Clodius's career with great interest.

Part II March of 73 B.C.-Quinctilis of 65 B.C.: Chapter 1 Analysis

Publius Clodius is a wealthy and intelligent aristocrat with no sense of direction. He descends from the Claudii patrician clan known for being fierce, haughty, and uncontrollable. Similar to Caesar, he shares the ambition of becoming Rome's First Man and is given the same advantages and opportunities. However, he lacks the self-discipline and foresight that Caesar possesses. Clodius serves as Caesar's foil. Clodius's reckless temper pales in comparison to Caesar's meticulous and disciplined nature. This is evident when he defames the Vestal Virgins who are Rome's prized possessions. It is very dangerous to attack these women because they maintain the sacred fire of the Vesta which is believed to keep Rome safe and prosperous. That, along with his conceited behavior, makes him an outsider in Roman society.

However, mingling with the lower classes teaches Clodius how to manipulate them. A skill which he uses against Lucius, the Arabs, and which he will use again in the future. Clodius may be reckless, but he knows how to charm and outwit his enemies. More importantly, he adapts to his circumstances. He is a survivor. Fulvia decides to marry him precisely for these qualities.

Fulvia is an heiress known for her great temper and stubbornness. Her relatives cannot control her and want to marry her off as soon as possible. Unlike Servilia and Julia, Fulvi is able to inherit because her mother secured her a senatorial exemption. With so much money at her disposal, she can choose her own husband, which is very rare. In choosing Clodius, she knows that he will see her as a partner and she will help make him a great force in Rome. The partnership of Fulvia with Clodius foreshadows Clodius's rise to prominence in Roman society. Everyone including Caesar take notice of this man, which leads readers to believe that he will play an important role in the events that follow.

Finally, the taking of Lucius's command by Pompey is a sign that Pompey's strength and wealth continues to grow. He not only commands his legions but now that of Lucius. His

fame is growing and that could pose a problem for Caesar if he does not strengthen his ties with Pompey.



Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C.: Chapter 1

Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C.: Chapter 1 Summary

In the year of 65 B.C., Caesar and Bibulus become Rome's curule aediles, putting them in charge of maintaining public buildings and regulating public festivals. Caesar enlists the support of his adopted father and friend Lucius Decumius to guarantee that any violators be caught and fined. He also organizes and chief finances the most memorable and lavish Ludi Megalenses and Ludi Romani festivals Rome has seen in ages. Bibulus, of course, does not help Caesar with these festivals.

During the Ludi Meglenses, which are considered the first games of the year and the most religious, Caesar puts on a spectacular pageant in which he taps into the Tiber River and channels water to create a river inside the Circus. He constructs ten finely decorated and crafted wooden theaters which holds thousands of people. For four whole days, Caesar keeps the theaters in operation from dusk until dawn and all the while he provides the crowds with free refreshments. On the last day of the festival, Caesar organizes and personally finances more chariot races than Rome has ever seen.

For the Ludi Romani celebration, Caesar spends even more money. During this festival in September, he tents the entire Roman Forum in order to provide shade for the crowds. The night before the festival he restores almost every statue of Gaius Marius, one of Rome's First Man. Finally, he serves free refreshments, brings in various forms of entertainment, holds gladiatorial games, and chariot races. In order to finance these festivals, Caesar takes out many loans which he cannot repay.

Caesar's extravagant festivals disgusts Cato. He continues to loathe him. He hates him even more when he learns of his wife Atilia's infidelity with Caesar. Servilia cheerfully reveals the love affair to Cato when he chastizes her for babying Brutus. Cato wants Brutus to enter the legions and become a man. Servila claims Brutus has a medical problem and should remain in Rome. Infuriated by his meddling, Servilia berates him about his unfaithful wife. He responds by immediately divorcing her and studying everything about commerce and commercial law.

Cato is elected as urban quaestor and in this position he launches a war on the treasury department. He wants to ensure that all funds and monies are accounted for properly. He goes so far as to fire the Treasury Chief, Marcus Vibius, and prosecute him on charges of fraud. Even though Vibius is acquitted, Cato does not relent. He gains the reputation of being incorruptible and is admired by the lower class Romans. He continues his crusade of financial justice by prosecuting Catilina for the murder of Marcus Marius Gratidianus which resulted in Catilina inheriting his victim's estate.



Caesar tries to warn Cato to relent, but he does not listen. Catilina turns to Crassus to defend him, who agrees under one condition. If Catilina is acquitted, he will help Crassus pass two pieces of legislation: annexing Egypt to Crassus' private fiefdom and giving the citizens of Trans-Padane Gauls Roman citizenship. Crassus gains Catilina's acquittal and Cato loses once again. However, Cato gets his revenge when Catilina attempts to run for consulship and loses to Cicero. The boni use their influence to elect Cicero, a man with no great Roman ancestry, in order to block Catilina.

Caesar receives a letter from Pompey. Pompey has managed to subdue most of the eastern provinces and asks Caesar to help his new tribune of the plebs, Titus Labienus, from time to time. Caesar meets with Labienus and strikes a deal with him. Caesar will find something to make Labienus's year as a tribune memorable and Labienus in four years will be Caesar's chief legate when Caesar becomes a proconsul to a province. During their talk, Caesar discovers that Pompey's wife, Mucia Tertia, is having an affair with Labienus.

After his meeting, Aurelia informs Caesar that the current Pontifex Maximus is on his deathbed and the office will soon be open. If he is elected to this office, it would save them financially. This office would show his creditors that he is a viable candidate for a consul and they would extend his loan. It would also be a lifetime position and provide him with a spectacular house paid for by the state in the middle of the Roman Forum. In order to attain this appointment, he seeks the help of Labienus.

Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C.:

Chapter 1 Analysis

Caesar is pleased with his office of curule aedile. It gives him the opportunity to strengthen his position in Rome amongst citizens of all classes. He is disappointed that he has to share the office with Bibulus, but he recognizes that he received far more votes than did his enemy. For Caesar, this is a promising sign of good things to come. While in this office, Caesar turns to Lucius because of this man's influence and power amongst Romans of all classes. Lucius is the custodian of the crossroads college, which means that any man no matter what their class had to pay him respect from time to time. The crossroads colleges consisted of men from all segments of society from slave to noble who banded together at Rome's main crossroads to perform religious ceremonies. Lucius may only hold a fourth class citizenship, but Caesar values his worth. Caesar uses the festivals as means to gain the love and support of all Romans. His extravaganzas not only provide great entertainment, but business for merchants, innkeepers, shops, and vendors. He is counting on their gratitude for his future endeavors.

Cato's purge on the treasury makes him extremely popular with the common citizens, but he alienates the first class. Cato knowingly ruins any chance of becoming a consul or any other higher office. However, this does not worry him. He cares more to his values and traditions than gaining political power. Cato realizes that his reputation will serve him in the future when he seeks to destroy his political enemies. After all, who will



doubt the word of a person that is incorruptible. This foreshadows possible plots that Cato will orchestrate in the name of preserving the republic.

As to Caesar and Pompey's relationship, it grows stronger every day. Pompey respects Caesar, especially since Caesar fought for him to gain a special command. He trusts Caesar so much that he asks him to help him and his tribune Labienus in government. Pompey views Caesar as a valuable ally. However, Pompey underestimates Caesar. Caesar gains Labienus's trust and learns about his affair with Pompey's wife. Labienus is no longer Pompey's tribune, but Caesar's. Caesar is skillful in acquiring the loyalty of individuals who can one day help him on his road to political supremacy.

Finally, Aurelia plays an important role in Caesar's political future. She knows that the appointment of Pontifex Maximus would solve all their financial problems. Even though women cannot vote, Aurelia campaigns for her son through the wives of other priests and government officials. She also encourages Caesar and reminds him of his greatness. Her unconditional love is a valuable asset for Caesar. His popularity as curule aedile will definitely help him in the election of Pontifex Maximus.



Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C: Chapter 2

Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C: Chapter 2 Summary

After the death of the Quintus Caecilius Metellus Pius Pontifex Maximus, the boni including Brutus and Cicero gather to discuss the plans to block Caesar's election to Pontifex Maximus. They decide to have one of their own run for the position. However, two new members of the boni, Quintus Lutatius Catulus and Vatia Isauricus, want the office. Cicero tries to reason with them, but neither man concedes. Catulus goes so far as to attempt to bribe Caesar not to run for office. All of Rome knows of Caesar's financial troubles, but Caesar refuses the money. Instead, he campaigns vigorously for the position. He relies on his popularity and prominent name to win. In the end, Caesar is elected Pontifex Maximus. Despite his new position, Caesar informs his friend and adopted father Lucius Decumius that he is always welcome in his home and this high positions will not change him.

As Pontifex Maximus, Caesar becomes the high priest of the Roman state religion and patriarch of the Vestal Virgins. He along with his family move into the Domus Publica and Caesar familiarizes himself with his responsibilities and the new women under his care. The Vestal Virgins include Chief Vestal Licinia, the beautiful Fabia, Popilla, Arruntia and two young girls Junia and Quinctilia. As Vestal Virgins, they are the property of the state and must remain chaste until they die or retire. They are in charge of maintaining the sacred fire of Vesta, housing wills, and ancient Roman documents. Caesar is fascinated with the documents that contain ancient laws. He labels one set of writings as the Commentaries of Kings.

As to his family, Aurelia is content with her son's prestigious position. However, she worries about his wife Pompeia. Recently, she has been associating with the Claudian clan. It includes Publius Clodius, his sisters, his wife and friends. For the last couple of months, Aurelia along with her trustworthy servant, Polyxena, watch Pompeia's every move. Now that they live in a bigger home, Aurelia fears it will be harder to keep an eye on her. Caesar understands this, but refuses to have her living near his bedroom. Pompeia annoys him but he agrees that she needs more supervision.

Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C: Chapter 2 Analysis

Caesar's election to Pontifex Maximus highlights his growing popularity among the Roman senators and plebians and the boni's weaknesses. Caesar's rejection of Catulus's bribe shows that he is willing to take risks in the name of greatness. If Caesar



took the money, he would be able to pay back his creditors and save his reputation. However, Caesar firmly believes that he is destined for greatness. He proves this by winning the appointment of Pontifex Maximus.

When he meets the Vestal Virgins, he is moved by their plight in life. They are selected at a young age and must leave the care and warmth of their family. He laments their lack of maternal affection and tries to be warmth and loving patriarch. His interest is greatly piqued when the Chief Vestal shows him the ancient documents. He knows that he must use everything at his disposal to become senior consul. Caesar does not spend his time on frivolous activity. These papers are important and will serve a purpose.

As to Caesar's private life, Aurelia maintains the wholesome reputation of his wife and daughter. She meticulously supervises his wife's activities and prevents her from any indiscretions. Aurelia does not want Caesar to appear weak because he cannot control his wife properly. Pompeia is very gullible and impressionable and her friendships with the Claduan clan foreshadows a certain doom for her. Her circle of friends love scandals and upsetting the Roman Aristocracy. Pompeia may fall prey to one of their scandals.



Part IV January 1-December 5 of 63 B.C.:

Chapter 1

Part IV January 1-December 5 of 63 B.C.: Chapter 1 Summary

Marcus Tullius Cicero is senior consul of the Senate in Rome during an economic depression. Pompey's dominance over the eastern provinces results in the outflow of capital from Rome and Italy to fund the business enterprises in the east. This leads to high interest rates, creditors calling in their debts, and limited available credit. All this economic uncertainty creates uprisings and possible threats of revolution amongst former soldiers and disgruntled citizens. Cicero uncovers a plot that Catilina and Lucius Cassius plan to cancel all debts if they are made consuls for the following year. Quintus Curius's wife Fulvia reveals this scheme to Cicero. Terentia convinces Cicero that these men are plotting revolution and he must prevent Catilina from running for consul for the following year. Cicero makes further inquiries and then publicly questions the men about their plans to revolt. Catilina objects to the questioning and insults Cicero's lack of ancestry. He challenges Cicero to arrest him if he has the evidence. Unfortunately, Cicero does not. As a result of his public humiliation, Catilina loses the consul election.

However, Cicero's smear campaign against Catilina tarnishes his reputation. He continues to search for evidence proving that such plot exists. His spy Fulvia informs Cicero that Catilina is using Gaius Manlius and Publius Furius to recruit an army, but it is merely hearsay. Then Marcus Licinius Crassus brings Cicero letters, which contains detailed instructions about overthrowing the government, but there is no mention of Catilina's name or signature. Still lacking concrete proof, Caesar aids Cicero by sending a former soldier of Sulla, Quintus Arrius, to gather information in Etruria. Arrius informs the Senate that there are signs of revolution. In Etruria, he has seen about two thousand men mostly former soldiers led by Gaius Manlius training and preparing for battle. However, he does not know if Catilina is involved.

After Cicero delivers a powerful speech detailing how Catilina's men attempted to kill him and various senators, Catilina's supporters in the Senate abandon him and he leaves Rome. Catilina joins forces with Manlius's legions. At last, Cicero acquires three letters naming Catilina along with eight other senators and noblemen as conspirators in a plot to overthrow Rome. Chaos ensues in the Senate and men such as Catulus begin to accuse Caesar and Crassus of being co-conspirators as well. Of course, there is no proof of such allegations. Cicero apprehends four of the alleged traitors, one being Caesar's relative, and the others remain at large.

Cicero petitions the senate to issue a *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* decree, which is a form of martial law that gives the senate complete power. Under this, Cicero demands the execution of all the conspirators without giving them a trial. Caesar argues that such action is un-Roman and illegal. He suggests that the men be exiled and imprisoned for



life in a house on the outskirts of Italy. Caesar delivers a moving speech and it seems that he is about to win the debate. Even Cicero begins to doubt his decision. However, when Caesar receives a personal note from Servilia, Cato thinks it is proof of Caesar's treachery and the note is made public. As a result, Cato leaves in disgust and a vote is taken that day. The majority of the senators including Servilia's husband vote to kill the traitors.

Part IV January 1-December 5 of 63 B.C.: Chapter 1 Analysis

Cicero is a brilliant speaker, writer, and lawyer. Since he lacks a noble background, he relies on his intellect and friendships to move up the political ladder. Even though he is in the inner circle of the *boni*, they do not consider him one of them. The economic problems in Rome weigh heavily over Cicero. He wants to do well in his year as senior consul and make a great name for himself. When he stumbles on the plot to cancel debts, it is Terentia his wife that orders him to do something. Cicero is hesitant and rightly so. He has no evidence except the word of a woman, which is equivalent to nothing. However, he realizes that this plot will distract the people from the financial crisis and, if proved, would make him the savior of the republic. However, Cicero commits many plunders. He has no strategy when approaching Catilina and hopes that Catilina will just confess. Cicero wants to impress his wife and his peers so much that it clouds his judgment. If not for the help of Caesar, Cicero would have never been taken seriously by the Senate.

As to Caesar, it is uncertain if he plays a role in this plot to cancel debts. There is no evidence proving that he does, but the author hints at the possibility. He still owes a lot of money to his creditors and having his loans canceled would be very advantageous for him. Caesar is a planner and by helping Cicero he is in fact ensuring his innocence in this plot. He reminds Cicero of this when Cato and Catulus accuse him of treason. Roman politics involves a lot of strategy and planning. Caesar is very skilled in both.

Cicero's choice to execute the men violates Rome's basic principles. As full citizens, these men are lawfully entitled to a trial. Caesar points this out in his speech. He advocates that these men be treated as Romans and not as common slaves. All the senators, including Cicero, were touched by Caesar's words. Caesar would have won if Servilia's note had not interrupted the debate. Caesar had hoped that Cato would rant against him during the entire session, causing the Senate to take the vote the following day. Caesar knew that, if the senators were given time to ponder his words, they would vote to exile the traitors. Servilia's note cut short the proceedings and a vote is taken that day. As Aurelia had predicted, Servilia had served to injure Caesar instead of helping him.

Cicero's decision to execute these men without a trial is going to affect him in the future. Cicero has made enemies amongst many of the Roman people. His feelings of guilty and doom foreshadow his fate in the years to come. Cicero has made a name for himself but an infamous one.



Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C.: Chapter 1

Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C.: Chapter 1 Summary

Infuriated by Cicero's abuse of the power, Caesar devises a plan to humiliate him and send a message to the Roman people. No one can execute a Roman citizen without due process of the law. If he does, he will suffer retribution. Caesar uses his knowledge of ancient laws to prosecute an old soldier, Gaius Rabirius, on charges of high treason. With the help of Crassus, Celer, Labienus, and Lucius Julius Caesar, Caesar launches his plan and gets Rabirius exiled. Through this case, he demonstrates Cicero's abuse of the *Senatus Consultum Ultimum*. Cicero's interpretation of this law is illegal because Catilina's armies never entered the city of Rome and therefore there posed no threat to issue the decree. Cicero defends Rabirius in court and Caesar maneuvers himself into the position of judge. In the end, Cicero loses and Caesar triumphs.

During this time, Caesar gets elected to the position of praetor urbanus, which is the second highest Roman magistrate and dealt with litigation. He accuses Catulus of embezzling money. He wants to discredit Catulus and ruin his reputation. Catulus, Cato, Bibulus, and Cicero are determined to rid themselves of Caesar. They try to have him arrested for starting a violent meeting, but it backfires. Caesar is able to calm the business owners and common Roman citizens. The boni see first hand the power Caesar wields over the people of Rome. In another attempt to ruin him, the boni present a letter in Caesar's own handwriting that claims he conspired with Catilina. This letter turns out to be a fraud and it is revealed that Gaius Calpurnius Piso, a member of the boni, is behind it all.

Caesar does not allow his battles in the Senate to affect his home life. With the Vestals, he is very gentle and loving. Terentia, Cicero's wife, is astonished by how deftly Caesar handles these women. Even though he is known for being a womanizer, he treats these ladies like a father and gives them no hope of any romantic relationship. Caesar is the first Pontifex Maximus in almost a century to treat his job with utter devoutness. No one jokes about his role as high priest and secretly even the boni admire how Caesar attends to his responsibilities.

As to Servilia, he continues his affair. Both Servilia and Caesar are physically aggressive when they are together. They each take out their frustration out on each other. Now that their relationship is made public, Cato berates his half-sister who remains unscathed by the news. She responds by scratching his face and ridiculing him. Brutus is disturbed by his mother's behavior and the news of the affair. As always, he turns to Julia, who supports and listens to him. Both discuss the matter and conclude that it is none of their business. Even though Julia does not like Servilia, she never



questions her father's decisions. They young couple will still marry when Julia turns eighteen, even though Julia is not looking forward to it.

Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C.:

Chapter 1 Analysis

Caesar's motivation behind humiliating Cicero is not solely about revenge. It worries him that Roman citizens can be executed on mere suspicion of wrong acts. If it could happen to Catilina and his conspirators, it can happen to him as well. In this chapter, Caesar shows more of who he really is. Despite being hungry for power, he reveals himself as a protector of justice. He does not want the Roman courts and Assemblies to be pushed to the side by the overarching power of the Senate. He wishes to preserve and uphold Roman laws.

Caesar is also a religious man. He believes in Fortune and knows that they will help him achieve greatness. As high priest, he fulfills his role devoutly. He spoils the Vestal Virgins not only because they hold the future fate of Rome in their hands, but also because he sees them as his own daughters. He always remains respectful and dutiful to them. It is amazing to see the contrast between Caesar the politician and Caesar the son and father. He can be ruthless and sneaky, but he can also be kind and giving. Also, his relationship with Servilia, raises questions about Caesar's character. He does not love her, but he cannot seem to leave her. He definitely has other lovers including a wife but Servilia is the only woman that is a permanent fixture in his life. He never tires of her sexually or intellectually.

As to Servilia, her boldness in scratching Cato further exemplifies her strength. She is a woman who will not be controlled. Even when her affair is made public, she does not flinch and continues sleeping with Caesar. She is proud of the fact that Caesar continues to be with her and is not ashamed when Brutus discovers the news.



Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C.:Chapter 2

Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C.:Chapter 2 Summary

Despite Caesar's political successes, he is still drowning in debt. He owes his creditors about twenty million. At first, his friend and political ally Marcus Lucius Crassus offers to loan him the money. Crassus is extremely wealthy due to his commercial activities and rental properties. However, Caesar will not borrow money from friends. He hopes that he will be given a province and his financial woes will be solved.

Fortune shines on Caesar and he is given the proconsular imperium over the Further Spain province. This means that he is only answerable to Rome's consuls, will be given a large stipend, and money to pay his legions and civil servants. However, the boni alert his creditors who try to garnish his wages as a down payment for his loans. Caesar realizes that he must borrow money from Crassus in order to completely pay off the debtors. Crassus loans it to him with the knowledge that he may need Caesar's help one day.

Caesar's financial problems are not the only cause for alarm. During the religious celebration of the Bona Dea in Aurelia's home, Plobius Clodius sneaks in dressed as a woman and desecrates the sanctity of the celebration. Aurelia suspects Pompeia's slave of granting Clodius entrance into the house. The slave confesses and implicates Pompeia in the plan. As a result, Clodius must stand trial before the courts as well as before Aurelia and the women. Upset at Clodius's stupidity, his wife Fulvia aborts her unborn child because she is afraid of the wrath of Bona Dea.

Even though Pompeia is innocent, Caesar cannot afford any scandal to his family. He divorces her and marries her off to his friend Publius Vatinius, who has just lost his wife. Vatinius is extremely grateful because with Pompeia as his wife his children will have patrician ancestry from both sides. Caesar asks Vatinius to return the favor by promising to stand as Caesar's tribune of the Plebeians when Caesar runs for consul. He agrees overwhelmed with his good fortune.

During that same time, Servilia's husband, Silanus, dies. Now that both she and Caesar are single, Servilia thinks Caesar will marry her. Caesar toys with her, but then claims he cannot because she is an adulteress. His wife must be above reproach. Angered, Servilia lashes out at Caesar. She claims she has always been a faithful wife and her only lover has been him. Enjoying her loss of control, Caesar says that he still wants her to be his mistress. Despite losing this battle, Servilia agrees to continue with their affair.

With his political and personal life squared away, Caesar evaluates his plans for Spain. He knows that Balbus Major and his nephew Balbus Minor will serve on his personal



staff. Both men are very intelligent when it comes to banking and loyal to Caesar. As to his two legions located in Spain, Caesar knows he has to increase his numbers if he wants to conquer all of the Iberian Peninsula. Even though Rome claims it has their territory, only one third of it is subdued.

Before leaving for Spain, Caesar meets with Pompey who has returned from his campaign in the Eastern Provinces. Pompey has amassed a huge amount of wealth for himself as well as for Rome. Pompey informs Caesar that he has divorced his wife, Mucia Tertia, because of her infidelity. Caesar advises Pompey to be careful because the boni are out to destroy him. Pompey laughs it off proclaiming that he has triumphed across three continents, a feat unheard of until now. After their meeting, Caesar realizes that Pompey will not stamp out the boni if given the chance. Not because he fears them, but because Pompey secretly acknowledges that he is not a Roman.

As Caesar sets sail for Spain, he contemplates his future. He does not begrudge Pompey for his successful campaigns. He respects the man. However, he at last has been given the opportunity to legally command an army. As he overlooks the Italian peninsula, Caesar vows to conquer the world.

Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C.:Chapter 2 Analysis

Caesar's financial troubles puts him at a disadvantage in politics. With money, he can buy votes and guarantee himself a governance of a province. He needs to secure a proconsulship because it will give him power over province and legally put him in charge of an army. Caesar aspires to the same military greatness as Pompey. With an army, he can wage wars against Roman enemies, acquire loot, and further expand Rome's dominance. He wants to make himself and Rome wealthy.

Caesar's refusal at first to borrow money from Crassus demonstrates his loyalty to his friends and honor. He knows that owing money can often lead to violence and ill-repute. Caesar also does not want to do anything that would alienate his friends, especially one as powerful as Crassus. As always, Caesar is thinking about the future. Even when he divorces Pompeia, he uses her to secure an alliance with his friend Vatinius. This foreshadows his future use of other women under his protection for political gain.

Clodius, on the other hand, lacks all common sense. He thinks he is above everyone, even the gods. The Bona Dea is the goddess of fertility, virgins, and women. Once a year, the women of rank and class put on an elaborate celebration to venerate her. His lack of respect shows his immaturity and selfishness. This celebration also highlights the private world of the Roman women. This is one area where the women dominate and even have the right to punish Clodius.

Caesar's refusal to marry Servilia comes as a shock to her. This is one of the only times Servilia becomes emotional and open with him. This is a turning point in their affair



because Servilia realizes that he will never marry her. She has lost the war with Caesar, but she still wants to be his mistress.

Finally, Caesar's assessment of Pompey gives him the courage to finally vocalize his plans. He is going to conquer the world and destroy the boni. Unlike Pompey, Caesar can trace his ancestry to the greatest of Romans and therefore believes it is his birthright. He has found Pompey's weakness and now knows that he will be greater than Pompey Magnus.



Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 1

Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 1 Summary

Caesar's successes in Spain worry the boni. They are already blocking Pompey's legislation and want to prevent Caesar from running for consulship. Pompey warns him in a letter that he must return home as soon as possible. He writes that the boni convinced the Senate to award Caesar his imperium—a decree of power—eight days after the candidates for consulship put forth their names. If Caesar presents himself in the Senate declaring his bid, he loses his imperium. Caesar appreciates Pompey's message and chooses to abandon his imperium in favor of running for consul. He wins the consulship for the following year and becomes the senior consul with Bibulus as the junior consul.

Caesar realizes that being in Spain has changed him. He no longer aspires just to be Rome's First Man but the greatest. In order to achieve this, he needs to create a triumvirate consisting of himself, Pompey, and Crassus. He proposes this idea to Pompey, who loathes Crassus, and rejects the idea. Caesar explains to Pompey that he controls the soldiers and generals, but Crassus dominates the business world. Every man in Rome owes him a favor. With all three of them allied, they will circumvent the Senate and enact laws through the Assemblies. With Caesar as consul and Publius Vatinius as his tribune of the plebeians, they will be able to ratify Pompey's Eastern Provinces and find land for his veterans. Also, Pompey will not have to deal with Crassus. Caesar will serve as the middle-man. Pompey sees the logic and agrees to it. Caesar advises him to keep their alliance a secret in order to ensure their success. When Caesar proposes the triumvirate idea to Crassus, Crassus rejects it outright as well. Caesar explains to him the economic advantages and guarantees him that his Asian-tax farming contracts will be amended. After hearing all that, Crassus accepts most willingly.

While Caesar solidifies his political ties, Cicero finds himself being persecuted by Clodius. During Clodius's sacrilege trial, Terentia forces Cicero to testify that Clodius was indeed in Rome when the crime was committed. Despite Cicero's evidence, Clodius bribes his way to an acquittal and writes Cicero's name on his revenge list.

Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 1 Analysis

The boni underestimate Caesar. They never thought he would sacrifice his imperium for the consulship. The imperium is a high honor that gives the recipient a great deal of



power in his office. Caesar chooses the consulship because he knows in the long run that position will serve his future plans. While in Spain, Caesar learns what it means to govern and he knows he cannot do it alone. It is not enough to gain power, but one must be able to maintain it. He enlists the help of Pompey first because Caesar is still sizing up the man. He knows that Pompey is not his intellectual equal, but he commands a huge army which could be useful. Also, Crassus is a longtime friend and Caesar is certain of his loyalty. Ultimately, Caesar knows that both men will accept because they desperately want to pass their legislation and beat the boni. Caesar knows what people want and is very good at giving it to them at a price.

Clodius declares Cicero an enemy for testifying against him and is going to make life and politics difficult for him in the future. Cicero realizes this and fears what the man can do. Clodius has a lot of wealth and comes from a prominent family. He also is willing to risk it all to obtain vengeance.



Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.:

Chapter 2

Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 2 Summary

Caesar is now forty years old and is the senior consul of the Senate. He is debt free thanks to his campaigns in Spain and to the shrewd negotiations of Balbus Major with his creditors. When Caesar introduces his controversial land bill which benefits Pompey, Cato filibusters and prevents its passage. When Caesar presents it in January, he demands that Cato explain his reasons for being against it. Cato merely shouts that Caesar is evil and Bibulus joins in chanting the same thing. Finally, Caesar turns to both Pompey and Crassus for support. Both men give it and the boni is shocked to find that the three men have formed an alliance.

Even though the triumvirate is powerful, Caesar endures many defeats by the boni. Bibulus and Cato work to strike down Caesar's land legislation and his tribune of the plebs Vatinius fails in getting the Assembly to ratify the Eastern Provinces. In attempt to block Caesar, the junior consul Bibulus retires to his home to watch the skies, which suspends all public business until Bibulus resumes his post as consul. Even Cicero speaks out against Caesar when he delivers his closing arguments for a defense case that has nothing to do with Caesar. As a result, Caesar and Crassus realize that Pompey's loyalty is wavering.

Caesar takes action to remedy this. In order to shut Cicero up, Caesar helps Clodius legally change his status from patrician to plebian so that he can stand for tribune of the plebs and go after Cicero. As tribune of the pleb, Clodius can charge Cicero with the deaths of Catilina and all the conspirators and prosecute him. He also discovers through his mother Aurelia that Julia is smitten with Pompey. Aurelia and Caesar decide to break her engagement with Brutus and marry her to Pompey. The minute Pompey meets her, he falls madly in love and accepts the marriage proposal.

As to Brutus, Caesar informs him and Servilia that he is breaking the marriage agreement. Brutus is crushed and Servilia demands to know why. Caesar privately tells Servilia the truth and she flies into a rage. She screams that Pompey is not a Roman but a butcher. Pompey is responsible for ordering the death of her first husband, Marcus Junius Brutus the Elder. Caesar pays Brutus a sum of cash and gives Servilia a huge pearl.

With his alliance intact, Caesar calls a war council with Crassus and Pompey. They decide that once the Senate resumes they will present their second land bill. Caesar also demands that they have to put their loyal clients in next year's elected offices in order to enforce the laws he passed during his term as senior consul. He also decides to marry the daughter of Lucius Piso, Calpurnia, in order to buy Piso's loyalty. Piso will



be next year's consul. Finally, Caesar also wants Pompey to use his influence and money to guarantee him the province of Italian Gaul.

Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 2 Analysis

Even though the triumvirate scares the boni, it does not stop them. However, they assume that Pompey is in charge and not Caesar. This shows how devious Caesar is. The boni work to block most of Caesar's legislation and his tribune of the pleb fails miserably in passing the land bill. However, Caesar proves victorious in part thanks to his mother. Aurelia is the woman behind the great man. She takes note of Julia's interest in Pompey and immediately suggests Pompey for Julia's husband. She advises Caesar how to approach Pompey because she knows Pompey will not propose. Without Aurelia, Caesar would have lost his triumvirate.

Caesar does not realize how much Julia meant to Brutus until he breaks the marriage arrangement. This completely destroys Brutus. For the first time, Brutus looks into Caesar's eyes and Caesar finds a dark emptiness in the young man. This is foreshadowing Caesar's future death at the hands of Brutus. Servilia is completely void of compassion. Instead of comforting her son, she rails at Caesar's choice of husband. Servilia is completely blind to Brutus's pain. Caesar's money does not console Brutus but the large pearl definitely lightens Servilia's mood.



Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.:

Chapter 3

Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 3 Summary

For a large sum of money, Caesar agrees to put forth legislation granting King Ptolemy Philopator Philadelphus tenure over the Egyptian throne and Roman Friend and Ally status. With the help of Crassus and Pompey, Caesar controls the Assembly. Caesar's tribune Vatinius not only puts forth Caesar's name as proconsul over Italian Gaul and Illyricum but also mandates that the Senate not be able to change any of the Assembly's legislation. The triumvirate's plebeians speak in favor of the motion, leaving the boni completely perplexed. They cannot understand why no one will speak out against it. As a result, Caesar's second land act, his consulship of the Italian Gaul provinces, King Ptolemy tenure over Egypt, and the Roman Friend and Ally status successfully pass. With his proconsulship legally established, Caesar sends Balbus and Labienus to Italian Gaul to prepare his legions for a campaign. Cato accuses Caesar of using his future legions to become King of Rome. Caesar loses his temper and berates Cato.

As to Caesar's private life, he spoils his new wife Calpurnia with gifts and even a cat. He is gentle and kind with her and treats her like his daughter Julia. Now married, Julia has Pompey wrapped around her finger. He adores her and consults with her about all his affairs. Caesar is very impressed how his daughter has tamed the great man. Finally, despite being married, he continues his affair with Servilia. For Caesar, Servilia is a drug.

As time passes, Caesar and his allies' popularity begins to wane and the boni exploits this. Lucius Vettius, stirred by the boni, claims that he knows of a plot to kill Pompey and that Caesar is involved. Just as Caesar goes to question Vettius, he is murdered. It is later revealed that Gaius Piso did it to silence Vettius from revealing the boni's involvement. Cicero along with Cato suggest that Caesar is the culprit. With public opinion turning against Caesar, Caesar must act.

He befriends Clodius who has just been elected president of the new College of Tribunes of the Plebs. Clodius informs him that he plans to charge Cicero for unlawfully executing Roman citizens without trial and give the Roman people free grain by annexing Cyprus. Caesar offers to introduce him to his adopted father and friend Lucius Decumius. Lucius proves instrumental in introducing Clodius to real Romans and the lower classes. This is exactly what Clodius wants and needs to succeed in the Assembly. Clodius manages to pass his legislation, but he holds off on charging Cicero. Cicero is afraid of standing trial for his crimes and flees into exile.

At the end of Caesar's year of consul, Bibulus returns from watching the skies and declares all of Caesar's laws void. Immediately, Clodius vetoes Bibulus out of office for



wasting his entire year as consul watching the stars. Caesar delivers a magnificent farewell speech and sets off to conquer Italian Gaul. He reveals to Crassus that he plans to wage a war of aggression that may last ten years. He plans on marrying the provinces of Rome with Egypt and being just as famous as Pompey.

As Caesar leaves, his women consisting of Calpurnia, Julia, the Vestal Virgins, and Servilia lament his absence. Servilia wears the pearl Caesar gave her as a necklace and sizes up Calpurnia. Servilia knows that Caesar will tire of his new wife soon enough, but never of her. Julia cries that she did not get to see her father off, but Aurelia assures her that Caesar is like Calpurnia's cat. He has a hundred lives.

Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C.: Chapter 3 Analysis

Caesar is at the end of his term as consul. He wants the proconsulship of Italian Gaul because not only will he gain four legions made up of veteran soldiers, but he also plans to connect Rome with Egypt. Caesar wants to conquer as much land as Pompey. That is unheard of. However, before he leaves Rome, he must guarantee that all legislation stays in tact.

Bibulus uses the watching the skies tradition to invalidate Caesar's year as consul. According to custom, all public business must cease. This backfires thanks to Clodius. Caesar skillfully manipulates Clodius using his friendship with Lucius to win over the Plebeian Assembly's tribunes' trust. As usual, Caesar exchanges a favor for a favor.

In the closing pages, Pompey and Crassus seem to fade away and Caesar remains dominant. Pompey is completely smitten with his wife Julia and Crassus is growing older by the day. Both these individuals lose their momentum while Caesar is only beginning. Caesar values power. As to his women, he has no problem leaving them behind and they in turn, accept this. Even Servilia dutifully waits for him. In the end, she loves him and nothing will change that.



Characters

Gaius Julius Caesar

Gaius Julius Caesar is the main character of this novel. He is intelligent, charming, ruthless, and meticulous. He is a thinker and is very disciplined with his emotions. Born into a patrician family known as the Junii, Caesar knows he is destined for greatness. He grows up in Subura an area mainly filled with foreigners, Jews, and lowly Romans. As a child, he forges a friendship with Lucius Decumius, who introduces Caesar to the everyday Romans. As a result, almost everyone in Rome regardless of status knows and loves Caesar. Unlike most Romans of his class, Caesar does not discriminate. He values a man's abilities instead of his ancestry. Regardless of class and race, he will form alliances with individuals that can serve his ultimate goal of becoming Rome's greatest First Man.

At the age of twenty, he wins the Civic Crown for his outstanding valor. This gives him entrance into the Senate immediately instead of at the age of thirty. It also permits him to speak in the Senate even if he has no office. Caesar never abuses this privilege. Instead, he simply wears the crown as a visible reminder of his strength and power. He chooses to watch instead of talk. This gives him key insight into the boni faction and how he will defeat them. From the beginning, the boni and Caesar are enemies.

Despite the boni, Caesar is politically ambitious. He does not hesitate to use his daughter Julia to strengthen his political ties with Pompey. He divorces his wife Pompeia in order to preserve his reputation and he marries Calpurnia to secure Lucius Piso's loyalty. The most important thing to Caesar is power. He loves his family and enjoys his affair with Servilia, but his career always comes first. He never allows anything to distract him from it. He is responsible for creating and forming the First Triumvirate in Rome.

Servilia Caepionis

Descended from the ancient Servii family, Servilia is a highly intelligent and ambitious Roman aristocrat. She has been married twice. Her first husband was Brutus's father Marcus Junius Brutus the Elder, who was killed by Pompey. Her second husband, Decimus Junius Silanus, is a handsome but frail senator in Rome. Servilia deplors his weakness and runs the household. A domineering woman, Servilia is known for her cruelty to her slaves and obsessive control over her son. She is determined to make Brutus a powerful and influential Roman. Since she is a woman, she cannot attain political greatness. As a result, she grooms her son for it. All her attention is focused on him and she completely dismisses her daughters. She even poisons her brother Caepio in order to enhance Brutus's wealth and status.



Neither her husband nor Cato can subdue her. When she becomes pregnant with Caesar's child, she boldly informs her husband of it without fearing any consequences. She tells him that she has been discreet and orders him to recognize the child as his. Silanus sees the logic of it all and accepts it. Whenever Cato tries to assert his authority over her and Brutus, Servilia unnerves him by insulting his ancestry and his family. She even scratches and scars him. She is a fearless and practical woman, who is very good at recognizing a person's weakness and then exploiting it for her own gain.

Her only weakness is Caesar. Never before as she met a man that can dominate her. She is both intellectually and physically enamored of him. Their sexual relationship is a kin to a chess match. Each one always trying to outmaneuver the other. It is also very physically rough, with Servilia fighting to be on top. This is precisely why Caesar keeps Servilia as his constant mistress. She never bores him and he secretly views her as an equal.

Despite her negative depiction, the reader must remember that Servilia lives in a world where women have no rights or power. They are the man's property. She has to use her sexual prowess and intellect to survive.

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Marcus Tullius Cicero is a famous Roman writer, speaker and lawyer. He is married to a wealthy and noble plebeian wife, Terentia and is known for always buying art that he cannot afford. He lacks noble ancestry and descends from a wealthy family from the country. Through his gift of words, he is able to rise in the Roman government and aligns himself with the boni faction. The boni faction does not consider Cicero one of them, but they will use him when necessary. They get him elected as senior consul in order to block Catilina's bid for power. Cicero is an example of how wealth and intellect can prove just as powerful as a noble birth.

Even though Cicero is very intelligent, he is highly influenced by his wife, the boni, and his desire to become a great statesman. He allows his judgment to be clouded. As consul, Cicero is very worried about the present economic crisis affecting Rome. When he hears of a plot to cancel debts, he immediately assumes that it will result in a revolution. He gets the Senate to issue a *Senatus Consultum Ultimum* decree, which gives the Senate supreme authority. He uses it to execute Catilina and his co-conspirators without a trial. Cicero firmly believes that Catilina wishes to march on Rome and become another dictator. Having seen what Sulla, a previous dictator, did to Rome, Cicero does not want it to occur again. He thinks he is going to be considered Rome's savior. Instead, he incurs the wrath of Caesar as well as other prominent aristocrats and senators. In the end, Cicero is forced to flee Rome for fear of being charged with murder.



Publius Clodius

Publius Clodius is an aristocrat from the Claudii clan. He is a wild, wealthy, and ambitious man. He forms a revenge list consisting of everyone who at one point in life has humiliated him or worked against him. He enjoys living on the fringes of society and forms friendships with soldiers and lowly Roman citizens. He uses his intellect to stir mutiny amongst his brother-in-law Lucius Licinius Lucullus's armies, costing Lucius his command over the Eastern Provinces. After he is circumcised by the Arabs as a form of punishment, Clodius returns to Rome.

In Rome, he marries the wealthy heiress, Fulvia and sets out to become Rome's First Man. However, his immaturity and irrational behavior hinder him. He violates the sanctity of the Bona Dea celebration resulting in a trial and the death of his unborn child. At his trial, Cicero testifies against him, which puts him on the revenge list. Clodius bribes his way to an acquittal. He legally renounces his patrician status in order to become a plebeian. He realizes he has a lot of clout with the lower classes and can gain power in the Assembly than he ever could in the Senate. He runs for tribune of the Plebeian Assembly, wins, and gets elected as President of the College of Tribunes of the Plebs. With the help and guidance of Caesar, Clodius passes controversial legislation which benefits Caesar. Clodius also makes it illegal to execute Roman citizens without a trial. This new law is what prompts Cicero to flee. Clodius respects Caesar and aligns himself with him in order to increase his own power.

Aurelia

Aurelia is the mother of Caesar and the matriarch of the family. She is the epitome of a Roman aristocrat: modest, respectable, and highly intelligent. She lives to serve her son and her family. Despite being a woman, Caesar listens to her advice and respects her opinion. Aurelia is very politically astute. She warns Caesar about the boni, suggests that Julia marry Pompey, and secures her son's marriage with Pompeia. When his debts begin to mount, she advises him to run for the position of Pontifex Maximus. She campaigns for her son by talking to the wives of priests and senators. Her main goal in life is to help make her son powerful. Aurelia knows when to speak and when to keep quiet. She uses her skills of logic and rationality to persuade people.

Aurelia also protects and preserves Caesar's good name. Knowing that Pompeia is running in questionable circles, Aurelia assigns her most trusted servant to watch over her. She also never lets the wife out of her sight. In addition, she raises Julia like her own daughter. Julia's mother dies when she is a baby, and Aurelia teaches her what it means to be a proper Roman woman. She dresses her in simple clothing, teaches her how to mend and sew, and encourages her love of reading. She also reminds Julia that her purpose in life is to secure a powerful marriage that will help strengthen her father's political career.



Marcus Porcius Cato

Marcus Porcius Cato is the half-brother of Servilia. He is the grandchild of Cato the elder and his second wife Salonia, who was a former slave. He is a plebeian who strongly supports the old strict Roman customs and traditions. When he was a soldier, he lived very sparingly, ate nothing rich, and only drank water. With his family, he is extremely traditional. Even though he is wealthy, he demands that his wife Atilia take care of the household and sew the family's clothes. Cato criticizes anything that is flashy or opulent. He is a plebeian, part of the *boni* and an ardent enemy of Caesar and Pompey. He along with the *boni* constantly veto and block any legislation Caesar and Pompey attempt to pass. He tries to prevent Caesar's election to Pontifex Maximus and proconsulship of Italian Gaul. He always delivers long speeches in an attempt to delay government proceedings.

Cato is known for being stubborn and morally strict. He divorces his wife when he learns of her infidelity with Caesar and orders that she never be allowed to see her children again. After this scandal, he throws himself into learning all about accounting. As elected quaester, he launches a war against the Roman Treasury to rid it of corruption. His campaign is so successful that even the *boni* fear he may be going too far. Cato willingly sacrifices his political career. His actions help his popularity in the lower classes but no one from the first or second class will ever vote for him again. He kills any possibility of running for higher offices but he gains the reputation of being incorruptible.

Marcus Licinius Crassus

Marcus Licinius Crassus is Caesar's good friend. He is an aristocrat and former military general who now engages in commercial activities and owns a lot of property. He is considered one of the wealthiest men in Rome, and frequently tries to lend money to Caesar. He also always supports Caesar in the Senate. Due to wealth and friendship with Caesar, the *boni* do not like him. Jealous of his wealth, the *boni* criticize his lending practices and his real estate ventures because it is not considered Roman.

Crassus at one point shares the consulship of the Senate with Pompey. Both he and Pompey share a mutual dislike of one another, but put aside their differences when Caesar proposes that they form a triumvirate. Caesar convinces Crassus to join them by appealing to his business sense. Before anything else, Crassus is a business man who enjoys making a profit. With Caesar and Pompey, he can put forth his tax reform legislation in the Eastern Provinces, which will yield a lot of money.

Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus

Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus better known as Pompey the Great is a successful military commander who has conquered more land for Rome than any Roman leader before him. He even takes over Lucius Licinius Lucullus's campaign to subdue Roman's Eastern Provinces when his soldiers mutiny. Pompey is a very wealthy and popular man



who openly declares himself Rome's First Man. Because of his wealth and reputation, the boni set out to destroy him. Cato in particular points out his lack of ancestry and frequently calls him a Gaul. They are worried that he has aspirations of becoming a dictator.

Pompey is a military man and quickly learns from Caesar all about political maneuverings. With the help of Caesar and his men in the Assembly, Pompey gets a special command to rid the Roman waters of piracy. However, Pompey is not Caesar's intellectual equal. He is easily unnerved by the boni and at times questions Caesar's actions. To solidify his friendship and the triumvirate, Caesar offers Julia to Pompey. After Pompey meets Julia, he falls madly in love with her and actually prefers the domestic life to the political one. Unlike Caesar, he willingly gives himself over to a woman.

Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus

Marcus Calpurnius Bibulus is a wealthy plebeian and one of the boni. He loathes Caesar ever since their youth. Caesar humiliated him and nicknamed him the "Flea." A name which he is still called behind his back. He does everything he can to block Caesar's legislation and election to Pontifex Maximus. He always opposes Caesar regardless of the issue. He truly hates him. Both he and Caesar serve as curule aedile at the same time, but Bibulus refuses to work alongside Caesar. When both he and Caesar are elected consuls, he invokes the customary tradition of watching the skies to stop Caesar from enacting any laws. It backfires because of Caesar's ally Clodius who vetoes Bibulus's claim that Caesar's year of consulship should be voided.

Brutus

Brutus is the son of Servilia and her first husband Marcus Junius Brutus the Elder. He is shy and intelligent but weak and unattractive. He is completely submissive to his mother. He longs for his Uncle Cato's respect but he is unwilling to defy his mother. Brutus loves to read and write and has not military ambitions. At the age of sixteen, he falls madly in love with Julia, who is eight. He asks his mother to secure a marriage arrangement between the two. He confides in Julia about everything and always remains respectful. When he inherits his Uncle Caepio's fortune, he becomes one of the wealthiest men in Rome.

Despite his new found wealth, Caesar breaks off the engagement. Brutus is destroyed. Caesar notices an emptiness in his eyes when he informs him of the news. Even though this devastates Brutus, it also strengthens him and turns him into a man that will one day kill Caesar.



Lucius Sergius Catilina

Lucius Sergius Catilina is a Roman senator, patrician, and military commander. He is a handsome and ambitious man who wants to become consul of the Senate. However, he frequently finds himself thwarted by the boni and Caesar. Clodius persecutes him after Catilina humiliates him in public. Cicero also accuses him of masterminding the plot to cancel debts and overthrow the Senate. After being slandered by Cicero and finding himself without supporters in the Senate, he flees Rome and returns to his legions. In the end, he is caught and executed by the Senate without a trial.

Julia

Julia is the beautiful and charming daughter of Caesar and his first wife, Cinnilla. According to Aurelia, Julia gets her gentleness and compassion from her mother's side. At the age of eight, she is betrothed to Brutus. She pities him, but does not love him. He is unattractive and boring. However, she never shows it or complains to anyone about it. She is willing to sacrifice herself to help her father's career. She loves him dearly and always remains cheerful and kind in public.

Julia is deeply enamored with Pompey. Even though she does not know him, she keeps a bust of his face hidden in her closet. Aurelia finds it and concludes that Julia loves him. This gives Aurelia the idea to marry her to Pompey. When Julia meets Pompey, she dazzles him with her beauty and intellect. Despite being twenty-three years his junior, Julia happily marries Pompey because she loves him.

Fulvia

Fulvia is the granddaughter of the famous and powerful politician Gaius Gracchus and an heiress. She is a wild and stubborn woman, who is able to inherit. Her mother secures her a senate exemption. She chooses Clodius because of his recklessness and fearlessness. She knows that he will one day be great and she wants to be at his side. Fulvia's only condition is that he remain faithful to her. He is not allowed to have any mistresses or consort with any other woman. He accepts and their partnership begins. Fulvia frequently defies traditions by appearing in public when she is pregnant and attending Senate sessions. At that time, women are not allowed in government meetings. As the daughter of Gracchus, she is afforded a lot of exceptions.

Pompeia Sulla

Pompeia Sulla is the granddaughter of the infamous dictator Sulla and Caesar's second wife. Aurelia suggests to Caesar that he marry her in order to eliminate any suspicion of his affair with Servilia. Also, by marrying her, Caesar aligns himself with a great family. Unfortunately, Pompeia is a dumb and silly girl. Caesar tires of her very quickly and tosses her aside. Aurelia takes responsibility over her and monitors her every move,



especially when she begins associating with the infamous Claudia clan. Caesar eventually divorces her because of the Bona Dea fiasco with Clodius. Even though she is innocent, her slave's participation in the plot reflects poorly on her. Caesar marries her off to his friend Publius Vatinius in exchanged for his loyalty. Pompeia is an example of the fate of Roman noblewomen who lack the intelligence of Aurelia and the strength of Servilia.

Calpurnia

Calpurnia is the daughter of Lucius Piso and third wife of Caesar. Caesar marries her to secure an alliance with her father. She is a young and naive girl, who is scared of Caesar at first. However, Caesar is very sweet and gentle with her. He spoils her with gifts and gives her a kitten, which she names Felix. Calpurnia knows of Caesar's affair with Servilia, but she naively believes that he loves her.

Vestal Virigins

When Caesar takes over the post of Pontifex Maximus, he becomes the patriarch of the Vestal Virgins. The Chief Vestal is Licinia, the second in command is Fabia, and the rest of the Vestals are Popilla, Arruntia, Junia, and Quinctilia. The Vestal Virgins are vital to the Roman religion. They tend the sacred fire of Vesta, which the Roman's believe affected the fate and prosperity of their empire. The Vestals had to make sure it was always lit. They perform state religious rituals and celebrations.

These women are selected by the Pontifex Maximus at a young age. They are considered the property of the state of Rome and take a vow of chastity until their death or the termination of their service. They served for thirty years. Since they belong to the state, these women could own property, make a will, and vote.

Terentia

She is the wife of Cicero and comes from a noble plebeian family. She is known for being intelligent, hardheaded, industrious, stubborn, and outspoken. She is an ardent support of her husband and supports his political ambitions. She loves him, but never shows him any compassion or tenderness because he is always trying to keep her behind doors and out of the public sphere. She berates and criticizes him constantly. She wants him to become a great politician and is the driving force behind Cicero's obsession to stamp out the Catilina plot. She is the one who concludes that canceling debts will lead to revolution. She nags Cicero endlessly about this pushing him to present it to the Senate without concrete evidence.



Objects/Places

Roman Forum

The Roman Forum is the center of all public life located in Rome. It is a large open space surrounded by buildings devoted to politics, law, religion, and business.

Gold of Tolosa

The Gold of Tolosa consists of more than 50,000 fifteen pound gold bars that was taken from the city of Tolosa when Servilia's grandfather Caepio the Elder raided the city. When the gold along with huge amounts of silver was sent to Rome, the wagons were attacked and the gold was stolen. It is believed that Caepio the Elder orchestrated the theft and kept the gold for his family. It has never been proven, but the Caepio are known for being extremely wealthy.

Italian Gaul

Italian Gaul is the province on the other side of the Alps, divided into two areas by the Padus River. Caesar requests the proconsulship of Italian Gaul and is the territory he sets out to conquer at the end of the book. He knows that this military campaign will make it more famous than Pompey.

Plebeian

A plebeian is any Roman citizen who is not a patrician. Even though they have more legislative power, they are considered socially inferior to the patricians.

Patrician

A patrician is a nobleman and it refers to the original Roman aristocracy. Members of these families have immense prestige that a Plebeian could never possess no matter how much money they have. Roman politics and social standing is predicated on ancestry not wealth.

Senate

The Senate is a governing body that serves as an adviser to the Assemblies. Senators have lifetime memberships. The Senate controls the Treasury and the money of Rome. It is not a legislative body, but it can issue requests to the Assemblies. The Senate deals with foreign matters and the appointments and regulations of the provincial affairs.



Plebeian Assembly

The term assembly refers to a gathering of the Roman citizens to conduct governmental and legal affairs. The Plebeian Assembly is one of the main assemblies. It had the power to pass laws and conduct trials. Patricians could not participate in this assembly, so they often bribed plebeians.

Popular Assembly

Popular Assembly is a governing body that consists of plebeians and patricians. They elect the senate magistrates known as curule aediles and the lowest Senate offices known as quaestors.

Centuriate Assembly

The Centuriate Assembly consists of all Roman citizens. They are divided into groups based on their class and they elect the consuls.

Consul

The Consul is the most senior elected office in the Senate and in Rome. They have power throughout the Roman Empire. Two are elected each year, but they both cannot be patricians. There is a senior and a junior consul. The man who receives the most votes in the Centuriate Assembly is the senior consul.

Tribune of the Plebeians

Tribune of the Plebeians consists of ten elected men. They are the only ones that can call the Plebeian Assembly into session and can act as its president. They put forth legislation, present proposals to the Senate, and veto actions taken by elected officials. Many of the boni bought the loyalty of the tribunes in order to gain legislative control.

People of Rome

This term refers to every Roman citizen who is not a member of the Senate. It encompasses all classes of people.

Civic Crown

The Civic Crown is a wreath of oak leaves and is Rome's second highest military award. During Caesar's time, it gave the recipient immediate entry into the Senate and the right



to speak. By law, the recipient must wear it in all public gatherings and is cheered by all men no matter their office.

Senatus Consultum Ultimum

Senatus Consultum Ultimum is a decree that gives the Senate supreme power. It is a declaration of martial law and it is used to avoid dictatorship. Cicero uses this decree to sidestep the assemblies and execute Catilina and his conspirators without a trial.

The Boni

The Boni is a Latin term that translates to "the good men." They are an ultraconservative group of men in the Senate and the Assembly. Usually led by Cato and Bibulus, they are Caesar's enemies.

Domus Publica

Domus Publica is the official residence of the Pontifex Maximus. It is located in the Roman Forum between the House of the Vestals and the Via Sacra, which is Rome's main street.



Themes

Power

Power is a major theme in the novel and the primary motivation behind almost all the characters' actions. It is measured in popularity, wealth, military strength, elected office, and sexual prowess. The entire plot revolves around characters competing for control in politics and in their personal lives. For Romans, power is the sole purpose for living. All the main characters strive to achieve it. It consumes their lives.

Both Caesar and Clodius are obsessed with becoming Rome's First Man. Caesar uses marriage as a political tool and forms the First Triumvirate. Clodius renounces his noble status to gain power in the Plebeian Assembly. Servilia poisons her brother to increase her son's wealth and social status. She is also determined to dominate Caesar through her sexual prowess and succeeds by becoming his permanent mistress. Cicero wants to be considered a great Roman leader and violates Roman law to achieve it. Cato glories in his reputation as being incorruptible and works to destroy Caesar's political ambitions. Finally, Pompey devotes his life to military campaigns which increase his wealth and popularity in Rome.

Even though Aurelia, Terentia, and Fulvia do not seek power for themselves, they want it for their loved ones. Aurelia advises Caesar on all matters and works to preserve his family's reputation. Terentia councils Cicero and encourages him to publicly attack Catilina. Fulvia uses her money and status to increase Clodius's position in Roman society. Regardless of whom they are doing it for, their ultimate goal is to attain power as well.

Whether a character is a man or a woman, the theme of power pervades their life. Every decision they make or that is made for them is calculated and deliberate. One mistake can lead to a character's downfall in the future. Rome is a world where deals are made behind close doors and plots are devised to destroy people.

A Woman's Place in Society

Through the life of Caesar, the theme of A Woman's Place in Society is examined. A woman's role in the Roman world goes beyond marriage and motherhood. They are the foundation of Roman society. Even though women at this time are considered property and do not have the right to vote, inherit, or make a will, they still defy social constraints. Behind close doors, women are political consultants, financial advisers, and the true head of the household. Through their influence over powerful men, they contribute to the development of Rome and its history.

For example, Aurelia is Caesar's confidant. They discuss financial, political, and familial affairs and Caesar respects her opinions. She is the one who tells him to run for Pontifex Maximus and suggests that Pompey marry Julia. She is invaluable to Caesar.



Terentia is another example. She encourages and advises her husband to pursue the Catilina's plot. She is the one that suggests that the plot will lead to revolution and demands that her husband stop it. Aurelia and Terentia are extremely intelligent and use their logical skills to gain the respect and admiration of men. They are seen as equals and not inferiors.

Fulvia and Servilia assert their authority outside of the home. Through a senatorial exemption, Fulvia has the right to inherit and own property. Her defiant personality and inheritance allow her to make her own decisions. She proposes to Clodius and demands that he remains faithful to her. She helps Clodius both financially and personally in his political career. She has the right to sit in on government meetings, which is denied to any other woman. Fulvia is given special privileges because of her relation to Gaius Gracchus.

As to Servilia, she fears no one. She chooses her second husband and takes advantage of his weaknesses. Even though Silanus is Brutus's legal guardian, Servilia is the one in charge of his upbringing and education. She often usurps Silanus's responsibility of being Brutus's guardian. The bond between her and Brutus is extremely strong. She arranges the marriage between her son and Julia and even murders her brother to enhance Brutus's wealth. Servilia is as ruthless and as smart as a man. She defies her husband by continuing her public affair with Caesar and uses her sexual prowess to become Caesar's permanent mistress.

As shown through the above examples, women had influence in the public sphere. However, it took a certain amount of strength, intelligence, and luck to achieve this. Not all women possess these qualities and those that did not are tossed aside.

Importance of Family and Ancestry

The Importance of family and ancestry is a major theme in this book. It determines one's class, political aspirations, and future opportunities. Without it, it is very difficult to succeed politically. For instance, Caesar and Clodius descend from the ancient Junii and Clodii clans respectively. Ancestors of these families are viewed as superior to all Roman citizens. Even though Caesar is not wealthy, he still commands loyalty from rich clients who want to align themselves with his name. It is seen as a birthright. Caesar often cites his family's name in his speeches to assert his authority and persuade senators to support and plebeians to vote for his legislation.

However, Clodius takes the opposite route of Caesar. He renounces his patrician status in order to become a tribune of the plebeians. He is a reckless man who thinks he can gain power through his money and popularity amongst the lower classes. Even though he attains legislative control, he loses the possibility of ever becoming one of Rome's First Men.

Cicero, on the other hand, lacks a prominent name but he does have money and he is a skilled orator and writer. He also marries into a plebeian noble family. Despite his wealth



and intelligence, he is not fully accepted by the boni. Behind his back, they criticize his rustic upbringing and call him a country bumpkin. They only help elect him consul to prevent their enemy Catilina from winning. Caesar uses Cicero's background to discredit him and claim that he abused the Senatus Consultum Ultimum decree. Also, even though Pompey is a great military commander who has increased Rome's wealth immensely, he is still not considered a Roman. An individual could be brilliant, wealthy, and conquer the world and still not be considered Roman if they do not have the proper bloodline.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person with an omniscient narrator. From the beginning, the narrator does not label characters as good or evil. Instead, the narrator provides insight into the characters' inner thoughts and emotions through dialogue and descriptive passages. The reader learns the intent of these characters as they attempt to survive in the Roman world. This is important because it turns these historical figures into real human beings with feelings and desires. They live in a volatile world of intrigue and treachery. Whether the characters actions are right or wrong is left entirely up to the reader's discretion.

The narrator accomplishes this by telling the story as an outsider looking in. Characters speak of their dislike of one another and their reasons behind it, but the narrator never highlights who is the hero and who is the villain. Instead, all these characters feel they are in the right and will fight to maintain their position. Caesar believes it is his destiny to become a great man while the boni believe that they must destroy men like Caesar to save the the republic. Cicero knows he must execute Catilina and his conspirators before they rally support and march on Rome. Clodius feels it is his right to enact vengeance on any one that humiliates or betrays him and Servilia employs all means necessary to survive in a man's world. The narrator's purpose is to make history tangible and put a face to these well-known figures without judging them.

Setting

The story is set between the years of 68 B.C. through 58 B.C. in the ancient city of Rome. During this time period, Rome is trying to maintain its republic and expand its empire. Twenty years earlier, the military commander and statesman Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix declared himself dictator and limited the powers of the Senate and the Assemblies. This fear of dictatorship pervades the Roman world and is the primary reason behind the boni's mistrust of one man gaining too much power.

The action of the plot mainly takes place in the Roman Forum. Caesar along with the other male characters are trying to navigate the treacherous waters of Roman politics where today's friend is tomorrow's enemy. Roman politics is filled with bribery and corruption. One must establish alliances and factions to rally support and get their voice heard. The main bodies of governance are the Senate and the Assemblies. Men deliver speeches to support their position on government issues and argue voraciously against one another.

However, politics is not limited to these walls. A lot of the decisions and plans are made in the homes of the characters. For example, Caesar frequently meets with his political allies in the privacy of his own home. Cicero uncovers Catilina's plot when a young



woman comes to his home and confesses it. Finally, Cato and the boni frequently meet in secret in to scheme and plot. Even though the author jumps from the Roman Forum to the characters' homes to the Eastern Provinces, the main focus is always the city of Rome and how decisions made in other locations will affect the city.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel resembles both a history textbook and a fiction story. The author employs a lot of Latin phrases and Roman terminology, which can be overwhelming. The writer tries to be historically accurate by referencing the varied elected offices, positions, celebrations and festivals, but relies primarily on the glossary at the end of the book for a more comprehensive historical background. One cannot write about Caesar without mentioning the intricacies of Roman politics, religion, and society. The writer tries not to weigh the reader down with so many details. She provides short passages which give the reader a context but the emphasis is placed on the characters and their lives. This story is about real men and women and how they lived.

As a result, a lot of the exposition and historical background is explained through the characters relationships and their inner thoughts. Her use of witty dialogue and banter throughout the novel engages the reader. She tries to balance lengthy passages of Roman history and conquest with shorter passages about the characters' lives. For example, through Clodius the reader learns about Rome's conquest of the Eastern Provinces as well as Clodius's stubborn and reckless disregard for others. The author gives the reader a general overview of Roman history while providing personal information about the characters.

Structure

This is a historical novel and it is divided into six chronological parts. Each part is about 100 pages long and describes events that occur during a given set of years. Within each part are pillars which designate chapters. Each section contains a lot of factual information and historical references sprinkled throughout the story. The author focuses on the action between characters and the events that are surround their lives. The use of dialogue and character description takes away the textbook element of the novel.

There are many subplots and side stories. It frequently switches between Caesar's public life and private life. There will be a section about his actions in the Senate and the next part will be about his love affair with Servilia. This allows the reader to see Caesar as both a man and politician. His actions and decisions are not made in a vacuum. His personal life plays an important role in his development as one of the world's greatest leader. Readers often only know what a historical figure did and not who he or she really is.

Finally, Caesar is the focus of the story, but the book overall deals with Roman politics and society. Caesar's life serves as the vehicle to better understand this period in

history. Part II and Part IV center around the lives of Clodius and Cicero during a given set of years and how their actions affect Caesar in the near future. The six parts help readers organize the events that occur from 68 B.C. and 58 B.C. and so they at least have a cursory understanding of Roman history. This structure also makes the plot less confusing because one can chronologically see how one event affects another.



Quotes

"You know more individuals than the rest of noble Rome put together, but you let no Roman of your own class draw too close to you. That's why the few true friends you make are always foreigners or Romans of the lower classes" (Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C., Chapter I, pg.16.)

"At thirty six, Servilia is no girl, and she's far from sweet. In fact, I'd call her as cold and hard as a slab of marble" (Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C., Chapter 1, pg.17.)

"You're her father, her marital fate is entirely in your hands, and you've never given me any reason to suppose you would consider letting her marry for love. She's too important, she's your only child" (Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 41.)

"Look at Pompeius Magnus-he's a Gaul! Look at Gabinius-he's a Gaul! Yet we genuine Romans are expected to abase ourselves before a Pompeius Magnus?...How could a patrician Roman like Sulla have permitted Pompeius to assume a name meaning great?" (Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C., Chapter 2, pg. 78.)

"What a traitor to your class you are, Caesar!...You'll never change, never! Always on the side of these ill-born demagogues who are determined to destroy the supremacy of the Senate!" (Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C., Chapter 2, pg. 89.)

"Young Brutus had fallen heir to the Gold of Tolosa. Definitely it was time to be nice to his mother. This was one betrothal could not be broken for any reason" (Part I June of 68 B.C.- March 66 B.C., Chapter 3, pg. 115.)

"Clever Clodius. He had learned the secret of demagoguery: tell people what they want most to hear, never tell them what they don't want to hear" (Part II March of 73 B.C.- Quinctilis of 65 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 136.)

"I don't know why her fancy alighted on you, Publius Clodius, but it did, and a full eight years ago. Her determination to marry you and no one else began then, and has never faded. Neither Marcus Fulvius nor I can deal with her, she is too strong for us" (Part II March of 73 B.C.-Quinctilis of 65 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 157.)

"Publius Clodius rather liked Caesar, recognizing in him another restless spirit, and envying him a kind of self-control Clodius was unhappily aware he didn't own" (Part II March of 73 B.C.-Quinctilis of 65 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 164.)

"What he hankered after was something more like in the line of Pompey the Great-savior of his country, that kind of campaign. And that kind of reputation. It hurt to be eclipsed by an upstart" (Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 169.)



"Between the name, the ancestry, the manner, the looks, the charm, the ease, and the intellectual ability, whatever election Caesar contested would see him returned at the top of the poll. He had enemies galore, but none capable of destroying his power base among the First and Second Classes, vital for success in the Centuries. Not to mention that among the Classes too love to count in the Centuries he stood high above all his peers" (Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 210.)

"Brutus's money would be such a help to her father, of that there could be no doubt. Avia said it was her duty as her father's only child to make his life in the Forum more prestigious, to increase his dignitas. And there was only one way in which a girl could do this: she had to marry as much money and clout as she could" (Part III January of 65 B.C.- Quinctilis of 63 B.C., Chapter 2, pg. 222.)

"To Terentia, he would do best to relax and ride into the heart of Roman society on her trailing skirts; instead, he kept pushing her into domestic obscurity and flying off at a thousand tangents in search of an aristocracy he just couldn't claim" (Part IV January 1-December 5 of 63 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 268.)

"The moment these traitors were dead Rome would quieten magically; any thought of insurrection would vanish from all men's imaginations. Nothing deterred like execution. If Rome executed more often, crime would diminish" (Part IV January 1-December 5 of 63 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 331.)

"That no man who acts under the shelter of a Senatus Consultum Ultimum is safe from retribution at some time in the future. That no senior consul can hoodwink a body of men as important as the Senate of Rome into sanctioning the execution of Roman citizens without a trial, let alone an appeal" (Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 358.)

"Caesar's wife, like all Caesar's family, must be above suspicion" (Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C., Chapter 2, pg. 464.)

"A man in politics has no real friends...He cultivates what's expedient" (Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C., Chapter 2, pg. 471.)

"I will lay hands on a Roman army and conquer the world, for I believe in Rome, I believe in our Gods. And I believe in myself. I am the soul of a Roman army. I cannot be stopped, warped, dislocated, ground down" (Part V December 5 of 63 B.C.- March of 61 B.C., Chapter 2, pg. 473.)

"His goals were unchanged: he would not only be the First Man in Rome, but the greatest of all Rome's First Men" (Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C., Chapter 1, pg. 504.)

"Like us, they're Caesar's women. Doomed to stay behind and wait for our lord and master to come home" (Part VI May of 60 B.C.- March of 58 B.C., Chapter 3 pg. 632.)



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the role of women in Roman society. What is the Bona Dea? Compare and contrast the manner which Servilia and Aurelia assert their influence?

Discuss the importance of ancestry in Roman society. What privileges are given to the nobility and aristocracy? How do men like Cicero and Pompey gain power and importance?

Discuss the boni's role in politics. Who are they and what do they stand for? How do they thwart Caesar and Pompey's plans for dominance? Why do they remain in power?

Discuss the Vestal Virgins. Who are they and what is their place in Roman society? What special privileges are they given?

Compare and contrast Publius Clodius and Gaius Julius Caesar. What are their goals and how do they achieve them?

Discuss the importance of the First Triumvirate. Why did Caesar choose these specific men? What makes them powerful?

What is Rome's First Man. What does it entail? How does one become part of this tradition? Who are past recipients?

Discuss Caesar's rise to power. Who are the people who aid him? Why do they aid him? Could he have achieved it without them?

Discuss vengeance in Roman culture and Clodius's obsession with it. Is he the only one who seeks retribution?

Discuss Cato's and Servilia's relationship. Why do they hate each other? What is the Gold of Tolosa?

Discuss Julia and Brutus's relationship. Why does Brutus fall in love with her? Why does she fall in love with Pompey?

Discuss Caesar's marriages and lovers. Why does he marry these women? How does Servilia remain his constant mistress?