



Grass Crown (Masters of Rome)

By Colleen McCullough

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New York Times bestselling author Colleen McCullough returns us to an age of magnificent triumphs, volcanic passions, and barbaric cruelties.

Throughout the Western world, great kingdoms have fallen and despots lay crushed beneath the heels of Rome's advancing legions. But now internal rebellion threatens the stability of the mighty Republic. An aging, ailing Gaius Marius, heralded conqueror of Germany and Numidia, longs for that which was prophesied many years before: an unprecedented seventh consulship of Rome. It is a prize to be won only through treachery and with blood, pitting Marius against a new generation of assassins, power-seekers, and Senate intriguers—and setting him at odds with the ambitious, tormented Lucius Cornelius Sulla, once Marius's most trusted right-hand man, now his most dangerous rival.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Continuing the saga of the Roman Empire begun with *The First Man in Rome*, McCullough spins a stupendous tale of love, lust and murderous ambition. This title was cited in PW's "red and black" feature as having failed significantly in hardcover to live up to publishers' sales expectations.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Volume two of McCullough's triumphant Roman series. *The First in Rome* (1990) initiated the chronicle of the edgy partnership of new-man-in-Rome Gaius Marius and aristocrat Lucius Cornelius Sulla during the German wars. Here, the calamitous last hurrah of one and the violent pinnacle acts of the other twist through years of Italian wars, expeditions into Asia Minor, domestic trials and brief happinesses, terrible cruelties, and politics, always politics, in which sectors, families, and the famous fight for power--by diplomacy, manipulation, alliances, or the simple art of murder. By now (roughly 80's and 90's B.C.) Marius is in his 60s and escaping a "dull" Rome to scout Asia Minor and sniff out the purposes of the barbarian king Mithridates of Pontus. The king will be faced down, and, some years later, Sulla, in a spectacular expedition over the Euphrates, will face him down again. Meanwhile, in the Senate there is a movement to enfranchise the sophisticated neighboring Italians, a movement snapped off by an assassination and a polarizing of ruling powers--and, inevitably, there's war. It is the overwhelming victory over one of the Italian tribes that brings Sulla his highest honor (the Grass Crown). Surely he is now equal to the great general Marius, now crippled by a stroke and attended by the boy Gaius Julius Caesar Junior, his wife's nephew. (Yep. The very same.) Marius intends to fulfill an old prophecy--that he will be elected Consul for a seventh time. The inevitable conflict between Marius and Sulla explodes during an ongoing battle to dilute the power of the Senate elite. There will be a march on an unarmed Rome, screaming grabs for ascendance from an unhinged, dying Marius, and a raving Sulla, plus bloody deaths...and deaths...and deaths. Again, magnificent portraits of real beings. And, again, gamey politics, bright talk, great scenery, and gore. With glossary and maps. (Literary Guild Dual Selection for November) -- *Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"A master storyteller" Los Angeles Times

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Milton Jones:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book called Grass Crown (Masters of Rome)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Todd Jacob:

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Melissa Peterson:

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Kenneth Cunningham:

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