



## Enemies of the Empire

*Rosemary Rowe*

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## **Enemies of the Empire** Rosemary Rowe

A three-day journey to the forested outskirts of the Empire is the last thing Libertus wants to make. Not only are there wolves and bears, but Celtic rebels may well regard the lone coach as fair game. But when Marcus Septimus asks Libertus to join him on official business, he knows he can't refuse his benevolent patron. En route to the garrison town of Isca, they stop at Venta—a simmering cauldron of social unrest where the Silures tribe, loyal to the memory of former chief Caractacus, seethes under Roman occupation. In the busy market square, Libertus is shocked by the glimpse of a familiar face. His pursuit of the figure leads him down a treacherous path and, before he knows it, into a murky world of racketeering, treason, and murder.

## **Enemies of the Empire Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2005 by Headline Book Publishing (first published March 2005)

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Author : Rosemary Rowe

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## From Reader Review Enemies of the Empire for online ebook

### Steve Caudle says

The series of Libertus murder mysteries from Ms. Rowe just seems to keep getting better and better. This is the best one yet--and includes some glimpses of Celtic life in Roman Britain. Well worth the read.

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### Debra says

Another of Rosemary Rowe's Libertus mystery series set in Roman Britain. As always, my interest is less in the mystery and more with the setting. Rowe is skilled at making me feel like I have travelled back in time, and I enjoy it. Here the tension between the conquered Celts and the Romans takes center stage.

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### Ian says

Libertus travels to a neighboring town, and unsurprisingly, discovers evil acts of perfidy. To wit, the descendants of Caratacus are plotting against the empire. Way to go guys! With his usual wit and trickery Libertus finds, and helps capture the evil parties.

Well written, usual style.

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### Eustacia Tan says

The 7th and second last book on this series that I've been able to get my hands on. That took much less time than expected - this books get finished very fast.

This story takes place in the outskirts of Britannia, where Libertus is accompanying Marcus on a trip. But, when one unfortunate night gets Libertus thrown in jail for suspicion of murder, the resulting investigations uncover not only a dead man walking, but a possible plot of rebellion.

The amount of investigative work in this story is higher than The Ghosts of Glevum, and the amount of action is probably roughly the same. After all the army is involved, even if a century of soldiers is only 80 people. Looks like we're moving towards a happy equilibrium here!

What I liked about this book was that it explored the tensions between the Roman conquerors and the conquered Celts. While Libertus is a Celt, he has a lot of vested interest in making sure that his Patron Marcus survives, and after that long period in captivity, he's pretty much integrated into Roman life. Same for his wife and slave Junio (Junio was even born in slavery, which means he's the most "Roman" of them all). So it was interesting for the book to go to a more rural area and look at the anti-Roman sentiment. I particularly enjoyed all the little pieces of history trivia.

It's a pity that I've run out of books and time to read. I'm hoping that because the later books are published later, I can get my hands on a physical copy. Either that, or it's really really time to get an Amazon gift card

because it seems like all the books are on Kindle.

Love love loved this series. It especially picked up in the later half, because it deviated from the pattern of the first few books and got more and more original.

This review was first posted at [Inside the mind of a Bibliophile](#)

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### **Gordon Chambers says**

A cracking good read. Libertus a freed slave, and part time sleuth in Romano Britain foils a plot by the followers of the long dead Caractacus. Fast moving with a good plot. Recommended.

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### **Shehroze Ameen says**

Much like "The Germanicus Mosaic" this work is a definitive read for historical fiction lovers and detective story lovers.

Again, you're Libertus, a freedman who accompanies Marcus Septimus to a place called Isca (now the town Caerleon in South Wales). I won't proceed ahead, only stating that the story is significant in its detailing of Welsh (and thus, Celtic) unrest against Roman occupation, as well as the build up to what I consider a very well executed conclusion.

Not much to say here. Like the Germanicus Mosaic and other works by Rosemary Rowe, its not related to Victorian era Britain, there's no Sherlock Holmes, and its a good way to pass the time - 308 pages only - especially if you would like a work which is historical in context and still keeps with the traditions of a good detective story. And yes, its a good detective story.

Definitive recommendation from me.

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### **Graham Crawford says**

A solid but predictable piece of Roman sandal-led detective fiction. Some amusement to be had from seeing conquered Britannica from the side of Rome as so many novels now are teary eyed with Celtic Myste.

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### **Belinda S Fielden says**

#### **Love the series**

Anyone who likes a good mystery story, especially when it is set in ancient times, should like this series. The living conditions are totally believable and not like Hollywood would portray them.

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**Joan says**

Well done and intriguing. Better than the last book in the series.

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