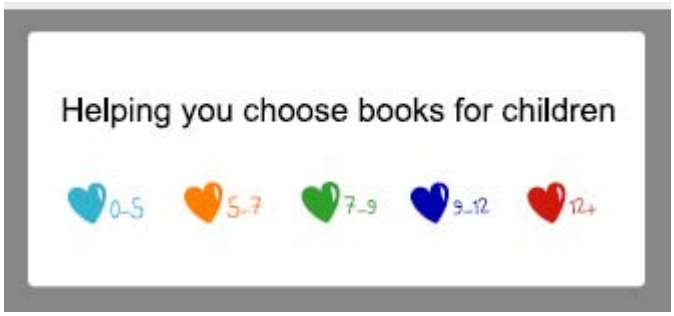
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opening extract from

The First Roman Mysteries Quiz Book

written by

Caroline Lawrence

published by

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I write mysteries set in ancient Roman times. In my books, I have created four children who are detectives. As a writer of historical fiction, I am a detective, too. Artefacts are my clues and the primary sources are my witnesses. They help me solve the mystery of 'What It Was Like To Live In Roman Times'.

Artefacts are the things that people used in past times. In Latin, the word artefact means 'something made by hand'. Artefacts reveal the sight and feel and smell and sound of the ancient world. The Pompeian fresco of a forlorn little boy, for example, shows what one Roman child looked like. A clay oil-lamp from Roman Egypt gives a spooky light from its smoky flame. The silky smooth beeswax on a replica wax tablet smells like honey, and if you push too hard with the bronze stylus you can hear the wood crunch underneath. A sponge-stick would have smelled like vinegar and poo, because when it wasn't being used as ancient toilet paper, it was probably sitting in a beaker of vinegar.

The people who lived in Roman times died long ago, but they can still bear witness to what it was like back then. They testify through the primary sources, the things written in ancient times. From tombstones we learned that parents grieved the death of a two-year-old just as much as we do today, even though in those days many children died before the age of three. From poetry

we learn that young men burned with passionate love, just as men and women still do today. From shopping lists we learn that Romans got cold feet sometimes and wore socks under their sandals. From their philosophical writings we know the ancient Romans wondered about the meaning and purpose of life, just as we still do. Romans could be pompous, funny, sarcastic, sincere, boring, exciting, superstitious and sceptical. Just like us.

They chewed gum, used toothpicks, dyed their hair and had indoor plumbing. Just like us. They crucified runaway slaves, gave their twelve-year-old daughters to be married and watched men kill each other for amusement. Not so much like us.

This is the puzzle that fascinates me the most. As I read the primary sources, play with the artefacts and write my books, this is the *real* mystery I am trying to solve: how were the Romans like us, and how were they not like us?

I would like to thank the other contributors, young and old(er), who have helped compile the questions for this book. We all had fun thinking up the questions and we hope you have as much fun answering them. I would especially like to thank my editor Jon, who let me use some of my favourite artefacts and primary sources.

Vale! (farewell) Caroline

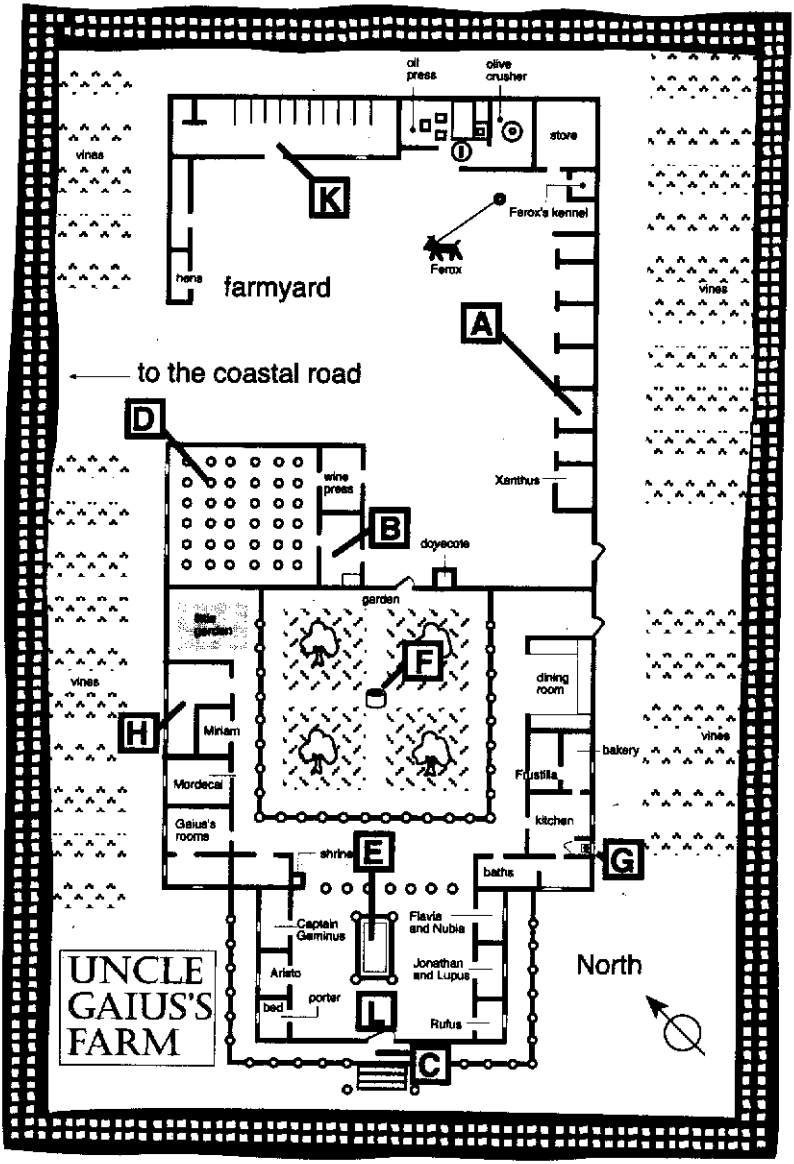


In every Roman Mystery there are maps at the front to show you where the story's action takes place. Can you match the place name to the letter that appears beside it on the map?

OSTIA IN AD79

1. Roman Gate — *Answer:* .....
2. Marina Gate — *Answer:* .....
3. Flavia's house — *Answer:* .....
4. Temple of Hercules — *Answer:* .....
5. Laurentum Gate — *Answer:* .....
6. Forum of the Corporations — *Answer:* .....
7. Theatre — *Answer:* .....
8. Avita's Grave — *Answer:* .....
9. Temple of Rome and Augustus — *Answer:* .....
10. Synagogue — *Answer:* .....

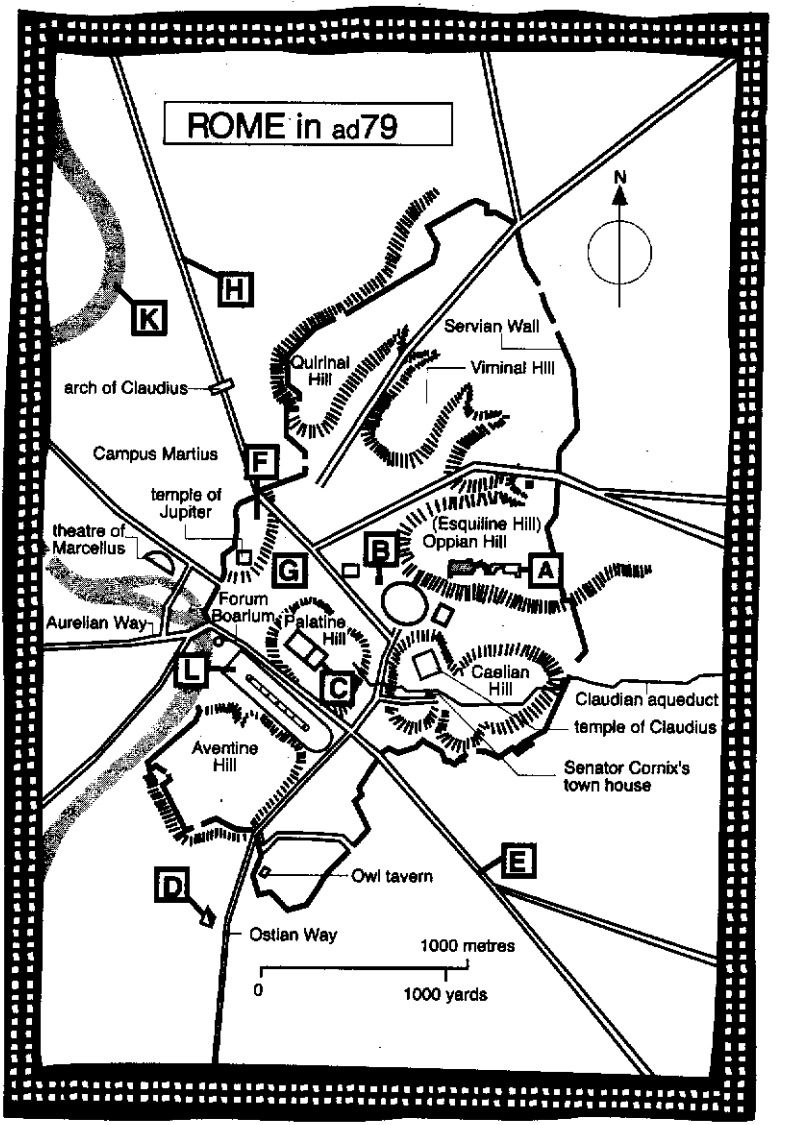
For the answers to these questions, turn to page 101.


oil press
olive crusher
store
vines
K
Ferox's kennel
Ferox
hens
farmyard
vines
A
to the coastal road
D
wine press
Xanthus
B
dovecote
garden
F
vines
dining room
H
Miriam
bakery
vines
Mordecai
Frustilla
Gaius's rooms
kitchen
shrine
E
G
baths
Captain Geminus
Flavia and Nubia
Aristo
Jonathan and Lupus
North
bed
porter
L
Rufus
C
UNCLE GAIUS'S FARM

ROME IN AD 79

21. Appian Way — *Answer*: .....
22. Pyramid of Cestius — *Answer*: .....
23. Flaminian Way — *Answer*: .....
24. Golden House — *Answer*: .....
25. Circus Maximus — *Answer*: .....
26. Capitoline Hill — *Answer*: .....
27. River Tiber — *Answer*: .....
28. Roman Forum — *Answer*: .....
29. Imperial Palace — *Answer*: .....
30. Colossus — *Answer*: .....

For the answers to these questions, turn to page 102.


ROME in ad79
N
H
K
Servian Wall
Quirinal Hill
Viminal Hill
arch of Claudius
Campus Martius
F
temple of Jupiter
theatre of Marcellus
(Esquiline Hill)
Oppian Hill
B
A
G
Forum Boarium
Palatine Hill
Aurelian Way
L
C
Caelian Hill
Claudian aqueduct
temple of Claudius
Aventine Hill
Senator Cornix's town house
E
Owl tavern
D
Ostian Way
1000 metres
0
1000 yards

THE THIEVES OF OSTIA



Hercules completes his twelfth labour
by bringing the three-headed hellhound
Cerberus to King Eurystheus.
(Illustration based on a vase from around 530 BC)

31. In *The Thieves of Ostia* on what date does Flavia Gemina solve her first mystery?

32. Captain Geminus needs his amethyst signet ring to seal letters and documents, but it also has sentimental value for him. Why?

33. What are the names of the mythological twins known as the Gemini?

34. What is Captain Geminus's pet name for his daughter?

35. What is the necropolis?

36. What is the main street of Ostia called?

37. Name three horrible physical features of Venalicius, the slave-dealer?

38. The Emperor Nero began to persecute Christians during his reign. According to Jonathan, what crime did Nero accuse them of?

39. How much money does Flavia receive in exchange for the treasures found in the magpie's nest?

40. Why shouldn't Flavia have asked Nubia to recline?

41. At Flavia's dinner party everyone tells of the most revolting food they have ever been offered. Can you match the food with the person?

1. Flavia	A. Whole charred quail
2. Jonathan	B. Sheep's eyeball
3. Captain Geminus	C. Chalk and sand in bread
4. Mordecai	D. Human finger
5. Miriam	E. Rotten fishhead

42. Who is Titus Cordius Atticus?

43. Flavia's mother died in childbirth, the most common cause of death in adult women during Roman times. How old was Flavia when her mother died?

44. What is the name of Jonathan's watchdog?

45. According to some scholars, most well-to-do Roman families had an average of four slaves. When Flavia first meets Jonathan, how many slaves does his family have?

46. When a girl dies of rabies as a result of a dogbite, Doctor Mordecai gives this affliction a Greek name, which means 'fear of water'. What does he call rabies?

47. What do Flavia and her friend mistake Lupus for when they first see him?

48. What is the Dog Throw?

49. When Flavia and Lupus investigate Avita's house, they find an encaustic portrait of her. What is an encaustic painting made of?



50. Why do the detectives go to visit the harbourmaster, Lucius Cartilius Poplicola?

51. Where does Jonathan try to take his friends to hide and escape from the slave-dealers?

52. How does Pliny advise staving off an attack by ferocious dogs?

53. Ostia, the port of Rome, had a lighthouse modelled on the famous lighthouse of Alexandria. Who dies by jumping from Ostia's lighthouse?

54. What is unique about the way that rabid dogs run?

55. What does Lupus find in the store-room which gives Flavia a vital clue to solving the crime?

56. What animal appears on the seal of Captain Geminus's patron?

57. Flavia dreams of the three-headed hound who guards the gates of the Underworld. What is the name of this mythical creature?

58. What substance allows the detectives to be certain of the villain's identity?

59. Rome's ninth emperor dies at the end of June AD 79. What is his name?

60. According to Pliny's *Natural History*, the fiercest watchdog is a hybrid from India. It has a dog for a mother. Which animal is its father?

For the answers to these questions, turn to page 102.



Featuring Questions by
Guest Quizmaster Emma Yeomans

61. In *The Thieves of Ostia*, what is the man sobbing beside the tomb wearing and who is he?

62. Can you match the image on the ring to its owner:

1. A dolphin	A. Rectina
2. A coiling snake	B. Susannah bat Jonah
3. Castor and Pollux	C. Thalia
4. A wolf	D. Emperor Titus
5. Two clasped hands	E. Captain Geminus
6. A boar	F. Lupus
7. A dove	G. Cordius

63. What does Lupus's tunic smell of when he wakes up at Jonathan's house for the first time in *The Thieves of Ostia*?

64. In *The Secrets of Vesuvius*, what is Miriam wearing when she collects ivy and honeysuckle at Uncle Gaius's farm?
    A) A lavender tunic
    B) A lavender stola
    C) A lavender toga