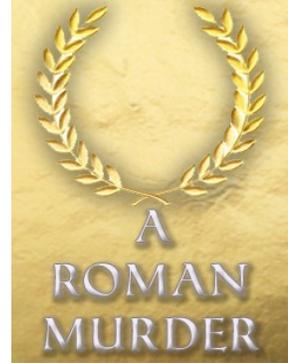


The Suspects



Lucilla

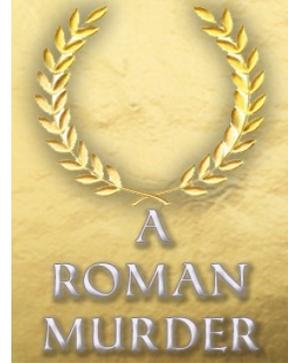
Sister to Commodus and daughter to Faustina and Marcus Aurelius, Lucilla has spent most of her life learning from her father, and watching his strategy, both in battle and as a ruler. As such, she is fair and just, and considers the good of the people above all else. Naturally, she has an open communication with a number of members of the Senate, and they respect her. Her only hope of power, though, is in an advisory role, as her father will most certainly name her brother, Commodus, his successor. Lucilla is poised and strong, and relentless when she believes she is working for the good of the empire. Lucilla is responsible for the party this evening, as she requested a "demonstration battle" between her favourite male gladiator, Thracius Gallus, and the most skilled gladiatrix, Caecilia, as entertainment during her birthday celebration.

Faustina

Empress of Rome, wife of Marcus Aurelius and mother of Lucilla and Commodus, Faustina is a strong female leader, and quite involved in her husband's joined running of the empire - so much so that she is known as "Mother of the Camp" by the soldiers, as she frequently accompanies her husband on military campaigns. Faustina is gracious and poised, and rarely lets anything alter her composure.

Caecilia

Caecilia is a gladiatrix, or a female gladiator. While not as common as their male counterparts, female gladiators are used in the Roman Empire and Caecilia in particular has caught the eye of Lucilla, the daughter of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Lucilla admires Caecilia's strength and skill as a female in the arena, and has asked to have her attend the celebration this evening to put on a "demonstration battle" against another crowd favourite, Thracius Gallus. Caecilia is quiet and soft-spoken, despite her brazen ferocity in the arena, and she has been known to defeat both men and beasts with the same mercilessness.



Prisca

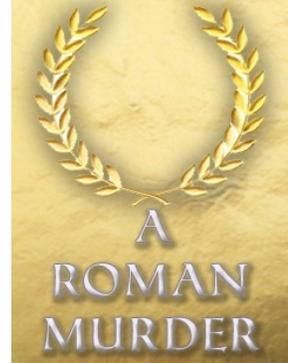
Prisca is a servant of Decima Clovius, his wife and his daughter, the victim, Drusa Clovius. She was selected, of all the servants, to travel with the family to Rome to meet with Marcus Aurelius to arrange the marriage of Drusa to Marcus Aurelius' son, Commodus. A young servant the same age as Drusa herself, Prisca has never left the Clovius' villa, and was excited to journey so far and stay with the emperor. Despite her excitement, Prisca keeps her feelings in check and serves with humility and an understated demeanour.

Marcia

Marcia is a handmaiden in the Imperial Palace. She came to be a servant here after serving Marcus Aurelius' adopted brother and co-ruler, Lucius Verus. While she serves the entire house, she tends specifically to Lucilla and Commodus. Marcia is privy to a lot of information, and to all reports is loyal and discreet. Marcia is humble and obedient in front of her masters, but in private, with the other servants, she is outspoken, and has, on more than one occasion, has been warned by the others to watch her tongue and be mindful of her place, regardless of where her daily duties may take her.

Florus Clovius

Mother of the victim, Drusa, Florus is visiting Rome with her husband and their servant, Prisca, for the sole purpose of finalizing an arrangement of marriage between her daughter and Marcus Aurelius' son, Commodus. Florus' husband, Decima Clovius, owns a large amount of land – land that Marcus Aurelius would like to use to expand the Roman Empire. Because of this, a deal was struck between the two, and Florus and Decima have included a large amount of land in Drusa's dowry. Florus is a severe woman – serious and proper, and seems leery of her new allies in Rome.



Marcus Aurelius

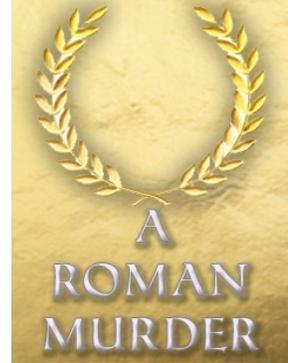
Emperor of Rome, Marcus Aurelius is actually a co-ruler, sharing the duties with another man named Lucius Verus, however it is Marcus Aurelius who is revered by the troops, and his reputation spans the vast expanse of the Roman Empire. Father of Commodus and Lucilla and husband of Faustina, Marcus Aurelius is stern and serious, but fiercely devoted to his family, and the Roman Empire as a whole. He is a natural philosopher and is very wise, both in military strategy as well as the politics of running an empire as vast as Rome.

Commodus

Son of Faustina the Empress and Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Commodus is their only surviving male son, and therefore is being groomed by his father to one day become emperor himself. While his sister, Lucilla, has more political acumen than Commodus and Commodus shows more interest in a life of luxury and pleasure over reigning, Marcus Aurelius has taken him on campaigns in the hopes of grooming him for greatness. In spite of his distinguished lineage, Commodus is selfish and unruly, but carries himself with such assurance that many hold out hope that he can yet become the one Roman who can follow the great Marcus Aurelius.

Thracius Gallus

A scribe-turned soldier for an enemy army, Thracius Gallus was sold into slavery after being captured by the Romans. Since, he has embraced his life as a gladiator, and has become a crowd favourite in The Colosseum. The people chant his name and shower him with rose petals as he emerges into the arena. Because of his success, Thracius Gallus has earned an honoured place as someone who is invited to privately entertain the emperor and his family at private events. Tonight, he was invited to battle Caecilia, a gladiatrix and another honoured invitee, and the two of them were to put on a "demonstration" battle as entertainment for Lucilla's birthday celebration.



Decima Clovius

Father of the victim, Drusa Clovius, Decima has traveled to Rome with his family to meet with Marcus Aurelius and make the arrangements for and give his daughter to the Emperor, to marry his son, Commodus, in a few weeks time. As her dowry, Decima has offered a large amount of land – land he knows that Marcus Aurelius wishes to rule. Because of this, the agreement between Decima and the Emperor has been mutually beneficial, and Decima Clovius was happy to have one of his daughters positioned to be Empress. Decima is stately and bold, and has little patience for trickery or deceit, and the discovery of the murder of his daughter has thrown him into a rage.

Narcissus

Fighter and wrestler Narcissus is a new addition to Marcus Aurelius' inner circle. A champion fighter, Narcissus has won the trust of Aurelius, and has been charged with the duty of training many of Marcus Aurelius' soldiers. It's no secret that Aurelius hopes that Narcissus will personally train the unskilled Commodus in the art of battle and – if Narcissus can win the admiration of Commodus as he has his emperor father, perhaps he will be even more involved in the running of the empire under Commodus' rule. Narcissus is intimidating to stand before, as he holds himself as though he is constantly ready for battle, regardless of the person with whom he speaks.

Cassius Dio

A writer and historian, Cassius Dio is an up-and-comer in Roman politics. Greek by birth, Cassius Dio has chosen Rome, and has decided to dedicate his life to documenting the history of the Roman Empire. While he claims to be unbiased, his disdain for the expansion of the empire on such a grand scale does creep into his writings. Regardless, he is an ally of Marcus Aurelius, and some have even speculated that he could become a senator in the future.