



# Lustrum

By Robert Harris

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## Lustrum By Robert Harris

**The stunning new novel from the No. 1 bestselling author of *An Officer and a Spy*, *Pomeii*, *Imperium* and *The Ghost*.**

Rome, 63 BC . In a city on the brink of acquiring a vast empire, seven men are struggling for power. Cicero is consul, Caesar his ruthless young rival, Pompey the republic's greatest general, Crassus its richest man, Cato a political fanatic, Catilina a psychopath, Clodius an ambitious playboy.

The stories of these real historical figures - their alliances and betrayals, their cruelties and seductions, their brilliance and their crimes -- are all interleaved to form this epic novel. Its narrator is Tiro, a slave who serves as confidential secretary to the wily, humane, complex Cicero. He knows all his master's secrets -- a dangerous position to be in.

From the discovery of a child's mutilated body, through judicial execution and a scandalous trial, to the brutal unleashing of the Roman mob, *Lustrum* is a study in the timeless enticements and horrors of power.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"Harris is the master. With *Lustrum*, [he] has surpassed himself. It is one of the most exciting thrillers I have ever read" -- Peter Jones Evening Standard "Harris communicates such a strong sense of Imperial Rome - the book is awesomely well-informed about the minutiae of everyday life" Guardian "Thoroughly engaging ... The allure of power and the perils that attend it have seldom been so brilliantly anatomised in a thriller" Sunday Times "Harris never makes his comparisons between Rome and modern Britain explicit, but they are certainly there. And that's the principal charm of his ancient thrillers - their up-to-dateness" Sunday Telegraph "Magnificent ... Better than Robert Graves's *Claudius* novels" -- Allan Massie Standpoint

### About the Author

ROBERT HARRIS is the author of *Fatherland*, *Enigma*, *Archangel*, *Pompeii*, *Imperium* and *The Ghost*, all of which were international bestsellers. His work has been translated into thirty-seven languages. After graduating with a degree in English from Cambridge University, he worked as a reporter for the BBC's *Panorama* and *Newsnight* programmes, before becoming political editor of the *Observer* and subsequently a columnist on the *Sunday Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*. He is married to Gill Hornby and they live with their four children in a village near Hungerford.

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