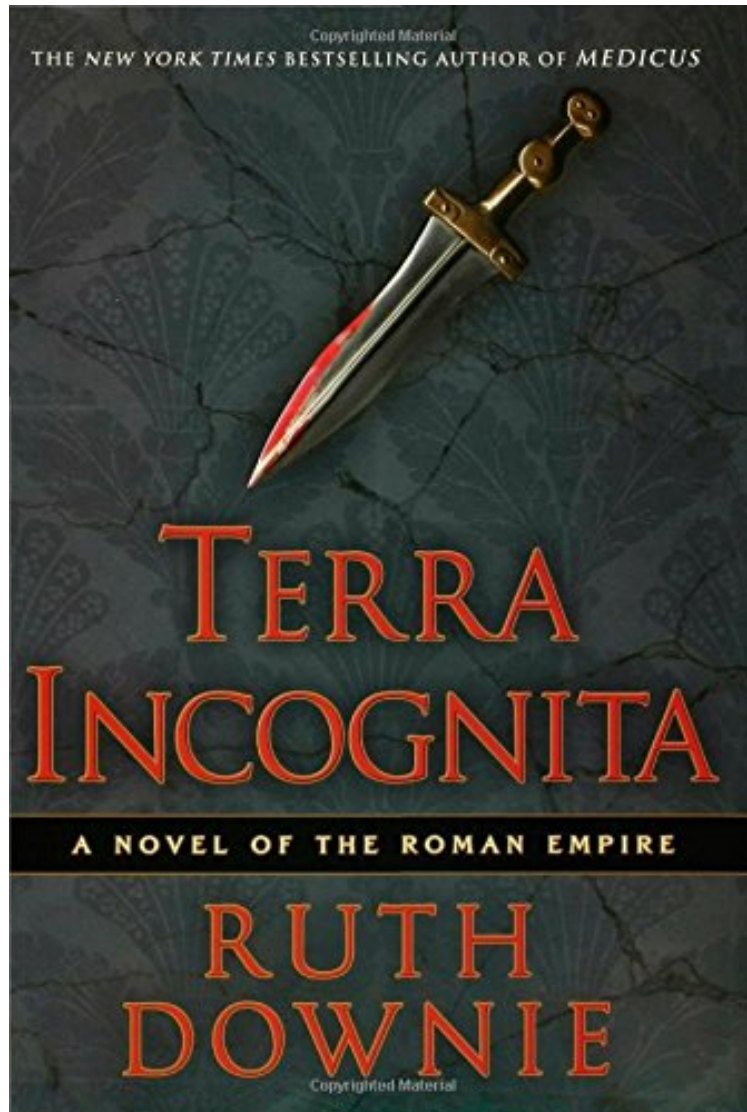


(Ebook pdf) Terra Incognita: A Novel of the Roman Empire (The Medicus Series)

Terra Incognita: A Novel of the Roman Empire (The Medicus Series)

Ruth Downie

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Ruth Downie : Terra Incognita: A Novel of the Roman Empire (The Medicus Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terra Incognita: A Novel of the Roman Empire (The Medicus Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still a good story By LoveToReadGoodBooks Perhaps it's because I read "Terra Incognita" on the same day I finished book one, "Medicus", and so I was coming off of an excellent story

that made this sequel feel slightly flat in comparison. Medicus Ruso was still self effacing in a likable way. There was another complicated murder to solve despite Ruso's desire to stay out of it. The army bureaucracy and politics were still in place to entertain. Even the cast of characters were still vividly unique. So why not five stars like I gave book one? It was Tilla, Ruso's slave and lover, who was less likable this time. I wanted to root for her, but it became increasingly hard as the story unfolded, which made the ending not as satisfying as it could have been. Had the author given us deeper insights to Tilla's motivation, or had there been a deeper declaration of affection on Tilla's part, instead of declared convenience, I might feel differently. But Ms Downie didn't write the story that way and we never really do find out all the details. Still, I give the story four stars because I was pleased enough with it to buy book three to discover what happens next. Perhaps I'm hoping that Tilla actually develops real affection for Ruso and they become an actual couple in the journey of saving Ruso's family farm and solving the next murder in ancient Rome.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just How Did Felix Lose His Head and Where Is It??? By reteach Gaius Petreus Ruso, Medicus to the 20th and his slave, Tilla find themselves in the far reaches of the Roman Empire--up near Hadrian's Wall in Britannica. It is the homeland of Tilla and she has returned after many years --several spent as the slave to a neighboring warlord who kidnapped her and the last year or so as Gaius' slave. The wives of Tresla, who first enslaved her, were jealous and sold her to an itinerant peddler who, in book 1, gladly sold off this outspoken woman who could not seem to conduct herself with the proper subservient demeanor. Now, back home, where she is not allowed into the fort where Gaius is serving as temporary relief to the present medicus or doctor, Tilla reconnects with her remaining family and neighbors of her youth. She and Gaius have arrived just as the Romans are in the throes of determining who killed Felix, the trumpeter. The resident doctor has confessed but he seems to be out of his mind--talking about his triangles that don't meet and the fish he requires to wrap round his head. Gaius is required to perform the autopsy on a corpse which is mysteriously missing its head--which cannot be found. As if these aren't plots enough, we find that a barbarian god in the form of a Stag has caused a wagon accident that injured many and killed a carpenter whose wife Tilla has just delivered of a newborn girl. Who is this Stag Man who rides into the community but vanishes like the air and what is his purpose. Lastly, will Tilla marry Gaius eventually--he has asked but she has refused. He is relieved to not have been accepted and is glad he did not need to withdraw the offer since these barbarians require a payment of five cows for a negated proposal. Gaius does not have the cows nor the wherewithal to purchase them. It seems Felix may have lost his head under just the same circumstances. Gaius' pal Valens, who appears on the scene trying to escape the Second Spear, father to his girlfriend finds that it is better to just marry her and be done with it, when she appears in his wake. All is solved in the end, though, as usual, Gaius' contributions are neither recognized nor rewarded by his superiors. Indeed, others, again as usual, take credit for his work. So, with murder solved, all other problems put to rest, Gaius and Tilla again head south to Deva, where he will take Valens place as medicus. On to Book 3 to see how our Roman medical officer and his native housekeeper, slave and lover fare on their return.

42 of 42 people found the following review helpful. A Fine Second to a Good First in the Series By Suzanne Cross I thoroughly enjoyed the first venture in this series, Medicus (2006), and was delighted to get this second entry in the series. There is nothing but good news for those who enjoy well-plotted Roman mysteries, although I do have a suggestion or two for the author as she continues in what I hope will become an established and popular foray into the ancient Roman army and murder mysteries. She has fine characters, an extremely likeable protagonist, a good sense of historical place, and a good sense of plotting. I must admit, I haven't been close to guessing "whodunnit" and I usually can. She also has none of that "how on earth did she pick HIM for the killer" syndrome, which drives me nuts when the killer turns out to be someone totally unlikely. This is a fun read; the author was a wonderful dry sense of the ridiculous that will keep you laughing aloud more than once. I had only two small concerns after its enjoyable and satisfying conclusion. Our hero, Gaius Petreus Ruso, a doctor to the legions, is in this novel so overwhelmed with difficulties in the far north of Britain that at points I got a tad impatient with him. Ruso is a great character, ironic, self-effacing, modest, likeable and decent, and the characters that surround him have an almost Dickensque eccentricity: their personal peccadilloes are not only funny but firmly contrast to our hero's. The dialogue is rapid fire and a rather modern sense of wry angst adds its own flavor to the brew. One certainly feels that bureaucrats in 2008 and AD 128 were largely similar. However, I wanted poor Ruso do to a little better.

SOMEWHERE . . . he appeared confused to the point of ineptness at several places in the plot, and we need to retain both our affection for him, and our respect. He began to seem like a well-meaning dweeb. I also got occasionally impatient with Tilla, the native Briton/ex-slave/current girlfriend, and found her frequent disappearances during the novel (to visit friends, family, enemies, graves, old boyfriends) to be a tad peculiar. Surely even an open-minded, tolerant and affectionate Roman might ask, after 72 hours or so, where his slave girlfriend had disappeared to? Again, these are very tiny criticisms in the body of a fun and well-plotted novel, I just hope that, in Volume 3, Ruso could be a little more Roman and Tilla could be a little less attitudinal. Otherwise, I enjoyed this and can heartily recommend it for those who enjoy careful history with their murderous intrigues.

Army doctor Gaius Petreus Ruso strikes out for the uncivilized borders of Roman Britain in this highly anticipated sequel to Ruth Downie's New York Times bestselling debut. It is spring in the year 118, and Gaius Petreus Ruso has

been stationed in the Roman-occupied province of Britannia for nearly a year. After his long and reluctant investigation of the murders of a handful of local prostitutes, Ruso needs to get away. With that in mind, he has volunteered for a posting with the army in Britannia's deepest recesses a calmer place for a tired man. But the edge of the Roman Empire is a volatile place; the independent tribes of the North dwell near its borders. These hinterlands are the homeland of Ruso's slave, Tilla, who has scores of her own to settle there: Her tribespeople are fomenting a rebellion against Roman control, and her former lover is implicated in the grisly murder of a soldier. Ruso, filling in for the demented local doctor, is appalled to find that Tilla is still spending time with the prime suspect. Worse, he is honor-bound to try to prove the man innocent and the army wrong by finding another culprit. Soon both Ruso's and Tilla's lives are in jeopardy, as is the future of their burgeoning romance. *Terra Incognita* shines light on a remote corner of the ancient world, where Ruso's luck is running short again.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . A judicious use of humor and a memorable protagonist lift Downie's sequel to her bestselling debut, *Medicus* (2007). Toward the beginning of Hadrian's reign in A.D. 118, Gaius Petreius Ruso, a doctor originally from Gaul, has attached himself to a contingent of the Roman army, the 10th Batavians, en route to the northern edge of the Roman Empire in Britannia. When Felix, a soldier, is found beheaded, the prefect of the 10th Batavians, Decianus, assigns Ruso to investigate, despite a confession to the murder by Thessalus, retiring medic to the Tenth Batavians Bedbugs. Decianus is concerned that the attack presages further unrest from the locals, who ascribe the killing to their antlered god, Cernunnos. Reluctantly, Ruso probes Thessalus's motives for admitting the crime and finds that many others also had an interest in seeing Felix dead. This well-researched novel places Downie alongside such established masters of the Roman historical as Steven Saylor and Rosemary Rowe. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. In Downie's second mystery featuring Roman-era army doc Gaius Ruso, the sawbones is now stationed on the outskirts of Britain and investigating the ritualistic beheading of a soldier. But is the knife-wielding killer a local or a comrade? **Movie Pitch -- Prime Suspect meets Rome. Lowdown --** Downie's attention to day-in-the-life period details, judiciously doled-out twists, and dry British humor make *Incognita* one hell of a toga party. **B+ Entertainment Weekly** a lively sequel...Ruso rocks. Let's hear it for those Romans. **Kirkus** s (starred review) This well-researched novel places Downie alongside such established masters of the Roman historical as Steven Saylor and Rosemary Rowe. **Publishers Weekly** (starred review) If you missed Downie's debut novel, *Medicus*, which introduced regimental doctor Gaius Petreius Ruso and his slave/housekeeper Tilla, you'll want to get caught up. This book, which is even better than the first, opens with the pair headed to northern outposts, where Ruso hopes to gain some advancement... This is a terrific series that historical mystery fans shouldn't miss - Downie's knowledge of Roman military medicine is phenomenal - but you do need the background of the first book. **Margaret Cannon, Globe and Mail** About the Author Ruth Downie is the bestselling author of *Medicus*. She is a part-time librarian and lives in Milton Keynes, England, with her husband and two sons.