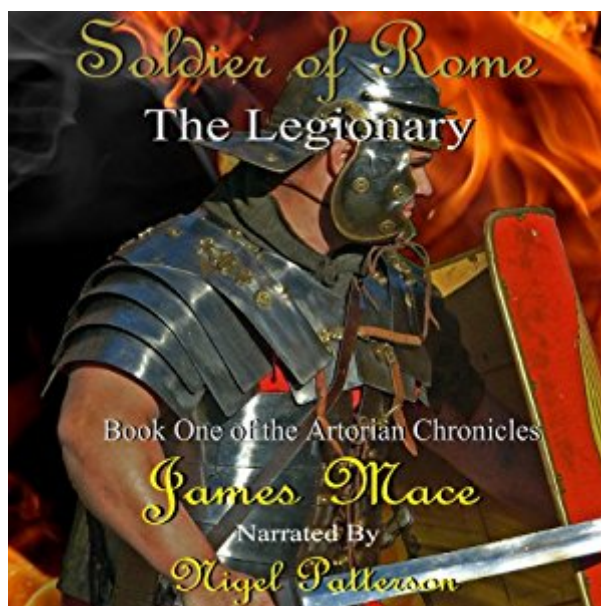


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# Soldier Of Rome: The Legionary Book One Of The Artorian Chronicles



## Synopsis

Rome's Vengeance. In the year A.D. 9, three Roman Legions under Quintilius Varus were betrayed by the Germanic war chief, Arminius, and destroyed in the forest known as Teutoburger Wald. Six years later, Rome is finally ready to unleash her vengeance on the barbarians. The Emperor Tiberius has sent his adopted son, Germanicus Caesar, into Germania with an army of 40,000 legionaries. They come not on a mission of conquest, but one of annihilation. With them is a young legionary named Artorius. For him the war is a personal vendetta; a chance to avenge his brother, who was killed in Teutoburger Wald. In Germania Arminius knows the Romans are coming. He realizes that the only way to fight the legions is through deceit, cunning, and plenty of well-placed brute force. In truth he is leery of Germanicus, knowing that he was trained to be a master of war by the Emperor himself. The entire Roman Empire held its collective breath as Germanicus and Arminius faced each other in what would become the most brutal and savage campaign the world had seen in a generation; a campaign that could only end in a holocaust of fire and blood.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

Unfortunately, I don't think people realize that Mr. Mace had this book edited and re-released because lumps the reviews of both editions together (even though they have different ISBN numbers). I've read both editions of "The Legionary." And while most of the criticisms regarding the spelling and grammar of the first edition are valid, it did not take away from my enjoyment of the book. Reading the second edition I saw that the author took the previous reviews to heart because

the grammatical and spelling issues from before have been corrected. Even though the first edition has been discontinued, it still seems to be available. The ISBN for the revised version is 978-1-4401-0026-0. As for the story itself, I really enjoyed it. One flaw that I often see in historical novels is the author will try and place 21st century morals on the characters, which takes away from the realism. James Mace avoids this, trying to make his characters as believable as possible for the time. Yes, there are some phrases that might be considered "modern," though I did not see it that way. In fact, I think he strikes a great balance between having his characters speak in a way that is not so dry, that the audience can relate to, while at the same time keeping things authentic. I later researched the campaigns of Germanicus and found that this story keeps very true to the facts. One note: The violence in this book is extremely graphic and the story is laced with profanity, with some gratuitous sex thrown in. So this is definitely not something for younger readers.

Most contemporary Roman historical fiction deals with the famous (and sometimes infamous) figures at the top of the hierarchy of ancient Rome: Caesar, Cicero, Augustus, etc.... In "Soldier of Rome" Mr. Mace gives us a realistic glimpse into what it must have been like to train, camp and fight alongside some of history's most respected soldiers. I have read much about the ancient Roman military and find a great wealth of fascinating tactical detail that other authors have neglected. Some readers have been off-put by the poor editing, but you shouldn't let the errors detract from what is a gritty, realistic look at the units, training, fighting techniques and tactics of the Roman military machine.

"Soldier of Rome: The Legionary" has its moments. The author, James Mace, is able to keep the story of a young Roman soldier involved in wars on the Empire's northwest frontier moving along at a good pace. The book's greatest strength is the detailed information it provides about the Roman legions--their organization, methods of fighting, weapons, etc. Beyond that, there is little credible information about how Romans or anyone else in the period actually lived, day to day. There are also times when the story's dialogue could be dropped into the context of the Iraq war with few edits. And speaking of edits, this new novelist was badly served by his editors who did little more than run the text through spellcheck, from what I can see. There are repeated spelling mistakes as well as bizarre misuse of language--"...it would feel better later to have a spot of wine and perhaps get his hands on a tasty wench." This was written in all seriousness. If you are into blood and gore and unending discussions of swords and other weapons, you will no doubt overlook the book's very numerous and obvious faults. If you are looking for more history and cleaner writing, this one isn't

for you.

for the last few years I have been more and more interested in stories about ancient Rome and especially the Roman Legions. I am so glad I discovered this series by James Mace, it is incredibly good in its research and you can easily see he is a stickler for detail. I have learned a lot about Roman life and the action sequences are to say the least breathtaking. I have read all of the series so far and can't wait for the next one.

I enjoyed James Mace's account of the Legions, especially the training of the recruits. I would put his work ahead of Ben Kane and Simon Scarrow and at least tied with Harry Sidebottom's work. I have purchased the next book in the series as well as his trilogy on the revolt in Judea. I enjoy historical fiction especially from Bernard Cornwell, David Ball, William Dietrich and Michael Curtis Ford. After i'm finished with his next four novels I will be able to judge if he belongs in the former group or the latter.

The reality of ancient war, still linked to much modern war, BUT, here, javelins, swords, ancient ballistae, and charging horses, [Roman Aux.], with major conflict involving strict discipline among the Romans, vs, the individual bravado of the Gaulish/Germanic peoples. Since my traced nationalities heritage include both Italian, and German/Irish, I am keenly aware of the geo-political background of these very explicit battler descriptions. Included are fairly good views of daily life of the Roman Legionnaire, including food stuffs, and seeking "frontier love". e.g., sex, NO explicit sex here just a background tapestry of daily life. I've read all four books several times over the past few years. Good intro to the many Ancient Roman novels/series out there...PAX ROMANA! non corumndum illigitimi...Robert

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