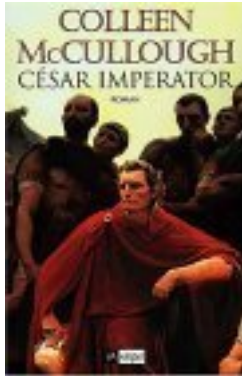

Colleen McCullough

Cesar Imperator (Masters of Rome #5)



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Description

It's 54 BCE. Gaius Julius Caesar is sweeping thru Gaul, crushing the fierce, long-haired warrior-kings who stand in his way. His victories in the name of Rome are epic, but the leaders of the Republic are not pleased. They're terrified. Where will the boundless ambition of Rome's most brilliant soldier stop? He must be destroyed before he can overthrow the government & install himself as Dictator.

Insightful reviews

G Hodges: Caesar by Colleen McCullough covers Julius Caesar's military and political battles from Britain and Gaul back to Italy (after crossing the Rubicon, a shallow river, now lost) through his battles with Pompey and the Roman Civil War.

After the first book I read in this series (which was unfortunately not the actual first book of the series), I wondered if I could follow the battles, which make up the entire book.

I still have trouble with the names, but otherwise the book did flow, and while this was more dramatic than Caesar's Women, it did not engage me continually. However, there were times, such as with the Britannic King Vercingetorix and at the siege of Alesia when you feel Caesar's military brilliance and then you feel his fatigue at Pharsalus.

Because you know she has done her research, you have faith in McCullough's characterizations of these iconic ancients. They become accessible. You cry with Fulvia and cringe at the death of certain people.

I am reading a biography of Thomas Jefferson and at one point, Alexander Hamilton (a mastermind of the American financial system) mockingly replies to Jefferson's statement as to the greatest men in history: "The greatest man who ever lived was Julius Caesar."

The man intrigued us 200 years before this book was written and McCullough perpetuates the fascination.



by



[Colleen McCullough](#)



by



[Jon Meacham](#)

Lisa Dalin: The second McCullough book I've read. Read "The first man in Rome" years ago and as good historical books do for me - awaken a feel for that time period and the people who lived then.

I still have "The October Horse" yet to read.

I think these are a must for anyone planning to visit Italy - and Rome. Similarly to War and Peace - these type of books are a bit scary because it's hard to keep the names straight. But like Tolstoy - McCullough will spin the characters well for the reader - that you will soon keep track of them by their personas rather than name. Reason Rome was re-sparked for me (it's been years since I was there and/or read books of that genre') but my sis gave me the HBO "Rome" series - and I was addicted! Great entertainment - and worth the \$100 bucks for the box set!

LeAnn: In *Let the Dice Fly* McCullough compellingly manages Julius Caesar's transformation from master politician and Pontifex Maximus into autocratic general. She begins the story five years after the last book in her Masters of Rome series, *Caesar's Women*, not long into his second term as governor of four provinces: Further Gaul, The Roman Province (the genesis of the name for the area of France known as Provence today), Italian Gaul, and Illyricum. At this point, Caesar has proven himself a brilliant general who has doubled Rome's income and land area. He himself has cemented close ties with his legates (officers) and his legionaries, proving himself as their commander by marching, building, and fighting right at their side. He has also taken enough booty to leave the debt-ridden political days behind.

This book essentially covers the material that the first season of the popular HBO *Rome* series covers without the confusion -- provided the reader has read enough history beforehand. After all, McCullough has written four other novels setting the stage for Caesar's rise to the status of First Man in Rome, fully exploring and explaining the virulent and bitter opposition to him among a small group of very conservative Roman senators, called the **boni**. McCullough makes a very good case against these men, led primarily by Cato and a patrician enemy of Caesar's named Bibulus -- and who has ever heard of him? For them, their opposition is purely political and leads them to strip Caesar of everything: legions, provinces, and **imperium**. At this point, Caesar must either submit to exile or marching on Rome. Given all the years that they'd dealt with Caesar, it's rather amazing these men so foolishly backed him into this corner.

Pompey, once friend and son-in-law to Caesar, swings to the **boni** cause out of jealous

insecurity: even as the conservative senators fear that Caesar can become a king because of his pedigree, Pompey fears much the same because his ancestors are clearly not Roman.

Let the Dice Fly shows a Julius Caesar becoming more isolated and godlike, awe-inspiring and worthy of a measure of pity, too. Unlike his Roman Senate days, Caesar has no close women confidantes or male friends even as he gathers to him devoted legates and soldiers who adore him and will fight to the death for him. Furthermore, McCullough begins to plant seeds of Caesar's fatalism. When speaking with a Celtic Druid about how he plans to live his old age, Caesar accepts the Druid's assurance that he won't live to old age. "The gods love you," the Druid says. And those whom the gods love don't live to old age. Several times Caesar comments that he wants his political enemies to continue to fight him in Rome because they make him strive harder. The last comment he makes in the book perhaps foreshadows the cause of his death: he tells a legate that the legate has too much faith in him and that he's susceptible to autocracy without opposition. It remains to be seen whether McCullough has Caesar walking to his death knowingly, but I rather suspect that she will. Perhaps she feels, as I do now, that Caesar would rather die the First Man in Rome than as a tyrannical old man who destroyed Rome's greatness.

Besides all of that, the descriptions of several of Caesar's sieges in Further Gaul are fascinating. The **boni** scoffed at his dispatches, claiming that he exaggerated, but modern archaeology has confirmed at least one of his more amazing claims: his legions built 25 miles of walls around a site called Alesia. McCullough describes engineering as Caesar's favorite among the wide spectrum of his gifts.

Pallavi M. : I did like first guy in rome better, basically simply because a few components of the booklet appeared a bit rushed- yet most likely simply because mccullough had like an excessive amount of fabric to cover, and needed to gloss over a few bits to make a possible novel. i actually enjoyed her portrayal of characters like caesar, cleopatra within the end, and curio, between others. She's additionally simply an enormous author, and her writing fairly brings those characters and the period of time to life. My in basic terms complaint, again, that a few elements appeared glossed over, rushed, or occasionally an excessive amount of in prefer of caesar (although mb that is the point, of course), for this reason the docked star.

Ivy: i admire this Masters of Rome series. I learn this one out of sequence, however it did not make a difference, might be simply because i am acquainted with the history. very good descriptions of the battles and Caesar's personality as an army leader. Edited to add: during this one within the sequence which starts off from Marius who was once the 1st "Master of Rome" and who set the direction for Empire. Caesar positive aspects from the second one ebook within the series, and his dying is roofed on the finish of this book. Caesar's declare to popularity used to be that he conquered Gaul, and was once given his victory parade for this. His hubris due to being provided a kingship, even if he declined it, finally resulted in his death. That and the jealousy of the remainder of the Senate.

Lisa (Harmonybites): Caesar is the 5th in McCullough's Masters of Rome sequence in regards to the past due Roman Republic which entranced me from the 1st publication with its photograph of a global unusually sleek in a few respects in addition to actually alien as merely

the previous can be. most of the attraction of this publication and this sequence is her skill to crack the stodgy marble snapshot we have now of Romans, and that is epitomized within the book's subtitle: permit the cube Fly! The often recognized quote of what Caesar stated whilst crossing the Rubicon and touching off a civil conflict was once "the die is cast." yet McCullough chooses one other model from an old resource saying: "'The die is cast' is unhappy and fatalistic. 'Let the cube fly high!' is a shrug, an admission that something can happen. Caesar used to be no longer fatalistic. He was once a chance taker." And that is McCullough's Caesar in a nutshell. I wasn't partial to Caesar earlier than interpreting this series, and i am nonetheless a little resistant. My notion of him was once shaped via Shakespeare the place Brutus and Cassius strove to avoid wasting their republic from a tyrant. As a "small r" and "small d" republican and democrat, it truly is demanding for me to permit myself to recognize a dictator. McCullough's Caesar turns out too solid to be actual and that i believed she had Mary Renault syndrome. Renault evidently enjoyed her Alexander the good to the purpose of close to worship. McCullough appeared in love together with her Caesar from the minute he seemed in her series. Early on during this novel she even has Caesar inventing the book--stitching jointly rolls so he may learn by means of turning pages. Ridiculous I thought! other than while I regarded it up i discovered it seems that there are credible assets for this--McCullough did not make it up. i discussed my close to inflammation approximately how unbelievably proficient Caesar is in those books to a chum who's a Classicist--she teaches Latin for a living. Her response? "Caesar is awesome." McCullough's photo of Caesar is of somebody who didn't wish to finish the republic or turn into king, yet desired to try to be the simplest between equals--only he had no equals--only jealous rivals. That does reconcile me to him a bit. And he is definitely interesting sufficient to propel me in the course of the six hundred plus pages. And during this booklet we start to glimpse the main recognized elements of the tale of Julius Caesar. Marc Anthony, Brutus, Cato, Octavian the long run Augustus are here. And the younger Cleopatra seems to be in the direction of the tip of the book. So i might say for me, at least, McCullough has succeeded in weaving an outstanding spell for one more book.

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