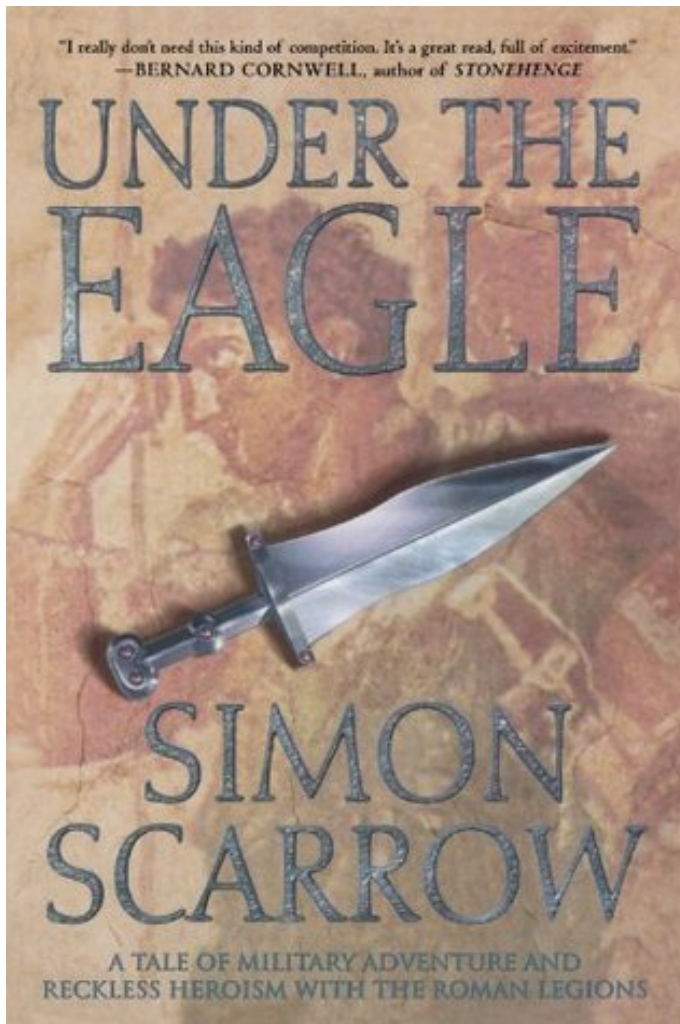


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## Simon Scarrow

### Under the Eagle (Eagle #1)



Title: Under the Eagle (Eagle #1)

Author: Simon Scarrow

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## Description

It is the year 42 AD, and Centurion Macro, battle-scarred and fearless, is in the heart of Germany with the Second Legion, the toughest in the Roman army. Cato, a new recruit and the newly appointed second-in-command to Macro, will have more to prove than most. In a bloody skirmish with local tribes, Cato gets his first chance to prove that he's more than a callow, privileged youth. As their next campaign takes them to a land of unparalleled barbarity - Britain - a special mission unfolds, thrusting Cato and Macro headlong into a conspiracy that threatens to topple the Emperor himself.

## Insightful reviews

Nate: Goodreads just fucking ate my first copy of this review, which means this is gonna be a short one (I can just hear the masses crying "NO!") It was a short one anyways, as I usually don't have enough steam to bitch about books I didn't like for more than a couple paragraphs. I really had good expectations for this one, I wanted something shorter and more fast-paced than the usual tomes I've been reading lately and this seemed like a good one, even bearing a Cornwell endorsement on the cover...those sneaky marketing pricks. Why would you lie to me, Uncle Bernie? It started out well enough, I liked being introduced in detail to the Roman military system including the chain of command, ranks, equipment, etc. and I definitely enjoyed the author's sense of humor. I was also charmed by Macro and Cato's dynamic. I didn't even mind the fact that the "Roman" soldiers are clearly English (it's the same on HBO's *Rome* and that didn't bother me).

But about halfway through the book I just hit this brick wall. The plot seemed almost nonexistent, and when it began to focus on the future Emperor Vespasian's intrigues and the Legion's march from the Rhine to the impending invasion of Britain I just became acutely bored with the whole thing. Don't get me wrong, I love me some good intrigue but it just lacked the taste of danger and suspense that that kind of stuff needs. Every time I'd come to a Vespasian chapter I just wanted to groan. Even Macro and Cato's chapters became dull, lacking the fun and spark in the first few hundred pages. There seemed to be whole chapters where nothing happened, and what was with the whole "two-page chapter" concept? It's funny, I just finished reading a David Anthony Durham novel and he seems to think that two hundred pages is a good chapter point (in a 500 page book.) Honestly, I prefer the latter to the former. The constant back-and-forth just really began to break up the momentum for me. So yeah, obviously there's good things and merit in this book--plenty of people adore them and he's written like seventy of them at this point. I suppose I'm just not gonna be one of those people.

Laurel: Reading Simon Scarrow's initial volume of his Eagles series, [Under the Eagle](#) brought back happy memories of sitting in Ancient Civilizations university seminars and Latin tutorials. I loved studying all aspects of Roman life, society, politics, and history. If you are looking for an bird's eye view into the daily life of an ordinary Roman legionary during battle, on the march, or settling into camp, this book is for you. Additionally, this book will introduce you to the common theme of life and death intrigue among senators, tribunes, wives and lovers, emperors and generals. It will describe the complicated activities required to move a legion and all the supplies

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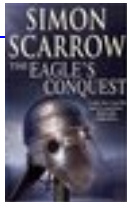
and support required to keep it moving-that is, about 5,500 men.

When I was teaching various elements of Roman life to my grade sixes, one of the areas that really fascinated them, was learning about the items and concepts commonly used today, that are accredited to Roman origins. As I read this book, I kept finding paragraphs that I would have read aloud to them, to facilitate discussion or illustrate real life applications of Roman technology or philosophy.

This book serves as an introduction to series of books focused around the exploits of legionary Marco, a grizzled and gruff mentor to soon-to-be seventeen year old Quintus Licinius Cato, a freed slave who has been sent to Germany, as an army recruit by Emperor Claudius ( of "I Claudius" fame), to satisfy a debt to Cato's father on his death bed. Cato has no interest in becoming a soldier, and has been trained to be an academic at the imperial court. Military life is not what he wants, nor does he think he can adapt well enough to survive, let alone advance through the complicated ranks within the highly-structured Roman military organization.

The story reveals itself mainly from the perspectives of Marco and Cato, as one teaches the other soldierly skills, and to become a proud member of the Legion. Then, they prepare for a campaign against the wild inhabitants of Britain. Obviously, this after Julius Caesar's visit there and before Britain became a Roman colony. Cato experiences the first pangs of love and lust, as part of what I suspect will be a continuing plot line, involving political intrigue swirling around Lavinia ( a slave belonging to Flavia, the Legate Vespasian's wife), the Senior Tribune Vitellus, and those plotting against the Emperor Claudius. No spoilers here!

The next book,



has moved up my TBR list. I do not want to wait too long to discover what happens to Macro and Cato next, in the foggy hills of wild Britain. My appetite for political skulduggery, bloody battles, and further insight into life during the time of Emperor Claudius, has been whetted, and I don't have to translate any Latin to do so![The Eagle's Conquest](#)

Jane: First in what promises to be a very good series -- Roman legion under Emperor Claudius, first in Germany then Britain. I liked the interplay between the two protagonists; they complemented each other and the color the author added. Very gripping battle scenes. My only quibble was the anachronistic language as a whole -- along with the usual Anglo-Saxon expletives and a love story which seemed to be just put in as an afterthought. I wonder if the author's descriptions of Cato's days as a raw recruit were perhaps drawn from the author's own, if Scarrow had been in the British army.... I'll be looking forward to other books in the series. This was a very fast read.

Chuck: In places, rather the conflict scenes, the ebook was once interesting. To me the largest flaw within the publication was once the dialogue. a lot of it appeared like modern day teenagers. a few of it used to be so undesirable it was once like fingernails on a chalkboard.

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The discussion used to be simply too inauthentic. Mr. Scarrow did do good at weaving a fascinating plot line so the reader is not yes till the top which personality is the antagonist.

Richard: whereas such a lot of my examining fabric is both SciFi or Fantasy, I do take pleasure in a few ancient fiction as well. i've got had this as a paperback for someday yet by no means begun it. i latterly acquired the Audiobook and breezed via it in 1 day. There is a good quantity of data dumping first and foremost of the ebook - explaining how the legions work, approximately laws and the way camps paintings etc. It additionally appeared that a few sleek perspectives on military lifestyles can have crept in in addition - yet i'm no historian and this can be simply my own view. That being said, it took not anything clear of this book. I had a reference to many of the characters, apart from the Legate. have no idea why that might were the case, and with a bit of luck it's going to switch sooner or later books. The audiobook used to be good offered and David Thorpe (Narrator) did an excellent job. i've got the subsequent 2 books which got here with the Audiobook bundle, and optimistically they are going to be simply as enjoyable.

Graham: this can be a compelling first novel in what has changed into a long-running series. Scarrow's goal is to carry Sharpe-style army thrills and spills within the Roman era, and his books concentrated round a crucial pairing of attention-grabbing characters: the weedy and scholarly Cato, younger and inexperienced, and the battle-scarred and squat Macro, an skilled soldier. I instantly cherished Macro and he quickly grew to become my favorite character, an easy soldier simply attempting to do his job. The novel is decided in AD43 and consists of the heroes in our legion trying to invade Britain. behind the curtain there is lots of murky political plotting going on, and Scarrow will get lots of mileage out of the sinister machinations. part the sport is attempting to determine who bears what hidden allegiance after which seeing in case you are right. all of it will get fairly advanced yet no longer uninteresting. The major thrust of the tale is, inevitably, in regards to the military. We subscribe to Cato as he undergoes strenuous education (Gemmell's LION OF MACEDON sprang to mind) and is then inquisitive about a few action. there is a great prolonged set-piece in the course of the ebook because the Romans conflict Germans in a run-down settlement, after which a few mammoth battles on the climax opposed to the Britons. The motion is easily written and bloody, with no being excessive. Scarrow ably balances the small scale front-line paintings with the options undertaken by way of the commanding officers. I comprehensive the e-book a couple of days after beginning it and regularly discovered myself not able to place it down. i glance ahead to tackling the remainder of the sequence and wish Scarrow is ready to preserve them regularly entertaining.

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