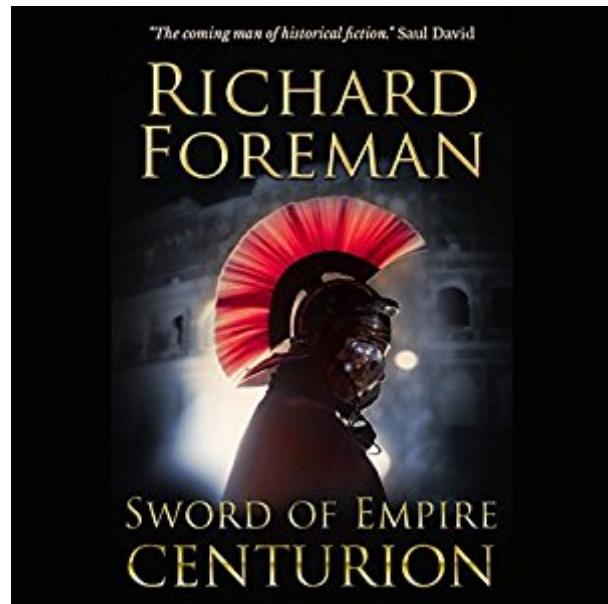


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# Sword Of Empire: Centurion



## Synopsis

Rome 174 AD. As the war continues in the north, Marcus Aurelius orders Gaius Maximus and Rufus Atticus to return to Rome. Enemies lurk in the shadows in the capital, spreading propaganda and sowing dissent. The praetorian guards must lure their enemies out - and defeat them. Yet Maximus is returning home for something, or rather someone, else: Aurelia. The soldier will be caught between his duty and his happiness. Rufus Atticus will also be forced to make a choice, between the duty he owes to his Emperor and the duty he owes to his family. Triumph and tragedy may prove to be two sides of the same coin. The centurions will be caught-up in a web of intrigue - as well as a battle on the streets of Rome - that will decide the fate of Marcus Aurelius and the Empire. *Sword of Empire: Centurion* is the sequel to the best-selling novella *Sword of Empire: Praetorian*. For fans of Simon Scarrow, Harry Sidebottom, and Conn Iggulden.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 39 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: August 12, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01K8OQEB6

Best Sellers Rank: #260 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Ancient #3977 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Thrillers #48239 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

## Customer Reviews

Worthy follow-up to *Praetorian*. Story follows on from first book, but three years afterwards. There isn't so much action in this as in many of the author's other Roman books but we're more than compensated with some great dialogue and twists. Battle at end is well choreographed and Foreman teases reader almost with which main/secondary characters will live or die. Maximus is a great hero, tough yet sympathetic. Marcus Aurelius is not your ordinary emperor and general either. As with the *Sword of Rome* series the characters and story grow with each installment.

The SWORD OF EMPIRE series of short novels follows the exploits of centurion Gaius Oppius Maximus, chief military troubleshooter to emperor Marcus Aurelius. CENTURION is the second in the series. The first is SWORD OF EMPIRE: PRAETORIAN which I enjoyed tremendously. This time around it looks like Gaius Oppius is, whether he likes it or not, getting sucked into political intrigue in ancient Rome. I enjoy how Roman history and politics are intertwined with the story. It's hard to say exactly what's true and what's fiction. What does ring true are how personal details of both real and fictional characters are connected with the story. One scene early in the book, for example, the centurion chats with Marcus Aurelius about the politics of governing where references are made to the Emperor's own writings. Later on the centurion attends a garden/cocktail party accompanied by his lieutenant. The party is sponsored by Marcus Aurelius' sworn enemy who is secretly planning a coup. The centurion doesn't know about this yet but the reader senses the stage is being set for a major confrontation. That confrontation does occur and the reader is rewarded with a fiery and brutal example of urban warfare replete with fiery arrows, severed limbs, and charred corpses. But that's not all. What the author is doing is setting the reader up for a personal tragedy in the final chapter and a transition to more adventures in future volumes. I'm really looking forward to more of this series!

Richard Foreman is a fairly new author, however as this book shows, he is an innovative and detailed author. It is part of a series that I would recommend you start with the first book before this one..but definitely read the entire series. Like most self-published e-books the author has relied on spell check too much, thus causing word misusage and typos. But it doesn't detract from the book. I look forward to more of his output in this genre.

With "Centurion" in the title one would expect the book to be concerned with fighting the Gauls or Germanic tribes. But instead, this book deals with the political scene in Rome. Centurion Gaius Maximus and newly appointed centurion Rufus Atticus have returned to Rome to find that enemies of the Emperor are spreading dissent and propaganda. Rufus' father, a rich and powerful senator, wants to overthrow the Emperor and set up his own man as a puppet ruler. He hires a small army of mercenaries in a plot to create havoc and seize the throne. Can the two men uncover and thwart the plot? This is a short book or long novella so the plot moves along rather quickly. The characterizations are well done and the reader should be intrigued with the motivations of the upper classes. The characters are different and diverse and whether good or evil have their own rationalizations of their acts to soothe their consciences. One can get an idea that maybe this is the

way that people actually did carry on in ancient Rome. Maybe many did sleep around but I'm not too sure that so many often quoted Virgil, Seneca, etc. as they do in this book. It did make for interesting reading. I got put off when one of the nicest characters in the story got killed off at the end. There really was no good reason put forth as to why that happened, just cheap revenge that didn't seem warranted. Anyway, I will now move on to the final book in the series. It looks like Gaius and Rufus will be heading back toward the Germanic tribes. Good. I look forward to more blood, gore and guts and less political backstabbing.

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