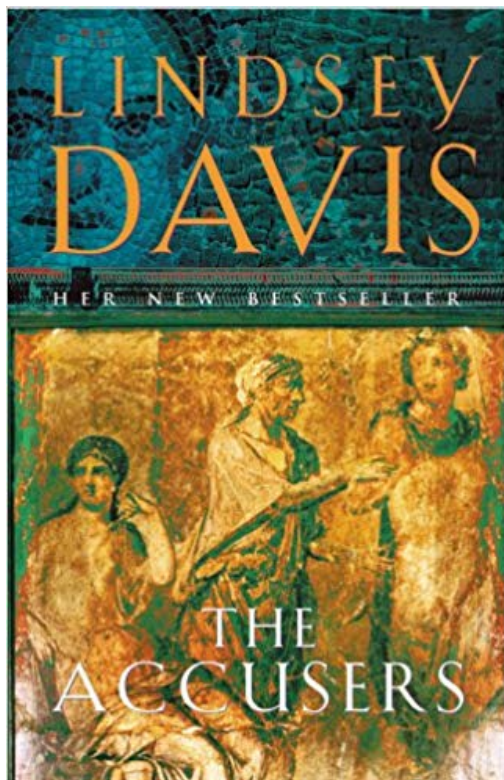


The Accusers *by* Lindsey Davis



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Reviews of the *The Accusers* *by* Lindsey Davis

Ylonean

"The Accusers" is the fifteenth book in the Falco series of stories. I enjoyed the story; however I found it different from the rest. As per the rest of the series, the author pursued a specific underlying plotline upon which to build her tale. In "The Accusers" she directed our attention towards the workings of the Roman judicial system. It was interesting; however in doing so she adopted a writing style (at least in the first of the book) that parodied many legal proceduralisms that dominate prime time television. To me that writing style did not work. As I've read the entire series, I've become used to how a Falco story unfolds and I feel comfortable in its flow. I know what motivates the main character and I identify with his principle and ethics. Unfortunately, this modified writing style did nothing for me and while the author does return to her traditional form of storytelling later in the book, it is too late. What I really enjoy about Falco is that he takes cases that no one else would touch because he believes in justice. In stories like "Three Hands in the Fountain" and "One Virgin to Many", Falco throws himself into both cases with his whole heart, risking his life in both books to bring about justice and to save the day. You don't get this feeling in "The Accusers". Perhaps times have changed now that Falco is living respectably and he has a young family; hopefully they haven't. I'll have to read the next book to find out.

Still it is an okay read, so if you like Falco...give it a read.

Vispel

Marcus Didius Falco finds himself both investigating and handling the prosecution of a client involved with a family murder. Lindsay Davis delivers another complicated detective story steeped in the lore of life in ancient Rome. Not life among the nobles, but life at the grassroots as seen through the eyes of private informer Falco. Falco observes what's going on around him and passes it along with great humor. It's always a fascinating ride. In the past, Davis has focused on banking, Roman Briton, Roman Germanica, the aqueducts, Petra and the Holy Land, and other topics. Now the reader gets a look at the Roman system of law in which two well-to-do informers specialize in accusing others of wrong-doing leading to a reward upon conviction. Great stuff. Read it.

Reddefender

I have been reading this series one book after another, enjoying every second (I was upset when I found out that 3 of the books were not on Kindle, and I immediately ordered them, and then had to wait impatiently for them to arrive). I love the juxtaposition of Ancient Rome and the modern PI. Falco and Helena have become Nick and Nora, complete with their Dog. Lindsey Davis has made ancient history come alive in a way my dry college history books could never do. The humor and attention to historic detail in these books is wonderful. The books just keep getting better and better. I'm starting the next book now.

Light out of Fildon

Saying that I'm somewhat of a Falco-aholic sugar coats my addiction. About halfway through my current book, I begin to crave the next. "Just one more story" each time. I stash my books around the house so there's always one handy. I sneak a couple pages when no one's looking. Fortunately between Amazon Prime and Kindle e-delivery, I never have withdrawals. Kindle, Audible, hardback, paperback - I'm always on the lookout for my next Falco fix.

This one was almost enough to make me go cold turkey.

No worries, no spoilers...

The Accusers introduces us to some colleagues of Falco and we see yet another aspect of the informer's profession - prosecutorial litigation.

The mystery in this tale isn't very hearty. Helena Justina is relegated to the back burner. Unlike the other 17 and a half Falco novels I've read (in the middle of See Delphi and Die now), I truly had to force myself to finish this one. Many times I struggled with just giving up. I couldn't wait for the end.

That being said, this is a lengthy series by any standard: 20 Falco novels, 1 Vespasian novel, and 1 Flavia Albia novel (with another on the way). Maintaining engaging plots and interesting characters without watering down or drifting away from the that which established the core following is not often achieved. SPQR I - XIII by John Maddox Roberts & Sano Ichiro 1-17 by Laura Joh Rowland both suffered this literary entropie. I still buy the books, but I much more enjoyed the earlier novels than the later ones.

I had contemplated rating this 3 stars, but felt that was too much of a stretch. So why 2 stars instead of 1? The Accusers, while lacking the entertaining storytelling I've come to expect, provides depth to my favorite characters. Growing pains are supposed to hurt, right? This one did, but I've enjoyed the next 3 novels that much more.

Lindsey best describes her own work: "This is the one where, after 15 years of writing about informers, I read a book that told me what informers really did."

JoJoshura

I love Lindsey Davis' writing. I feel like I am right there in the period, in either Rome or England or wherever her story is set. If you enjoy a recreation of history written in an engaging "detective story" style, you will love this book and all the others in the series. Lindsey Davis must have spent thousands of hours researching the background for her novels which read so smoothly that its almost like reading a 'whodunnit' set in the present. On top of that, she manages to add some 'laugh out loud' moments as well as relating things to everyday descriptions of relationships and family life. Very cleverly done and written. A thoroughly enjoyable book.

Vushura

All of Lindsey Davis's Roman mysteries are excellent. Falco, the main character and detective, is very likeable, and with very human strengths and weaknesses. As the stories progress through the many stories of his adventures, most of the other characters are equally human, and his relationships with them very realistic. I am something of a history buff, and as far as I can tell Davis's history is very accurate. I recommend all of Davis's Falco stories.

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