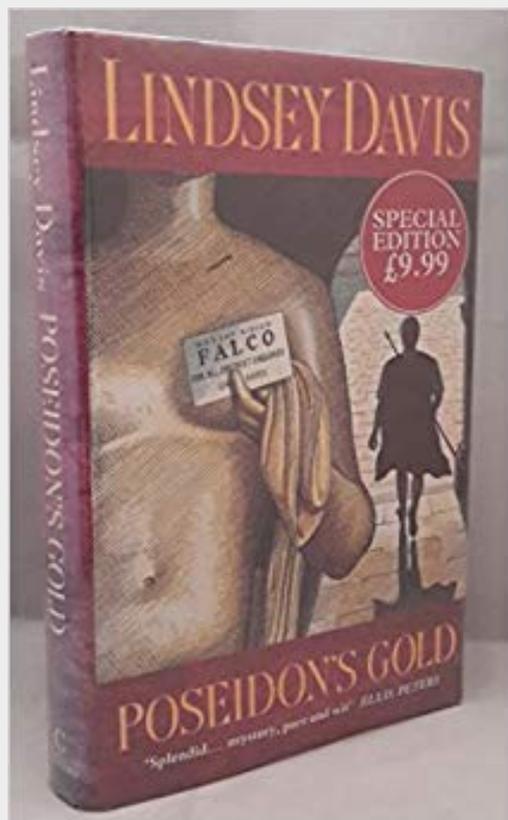


Poseidon's Gold by Lindsey Davis



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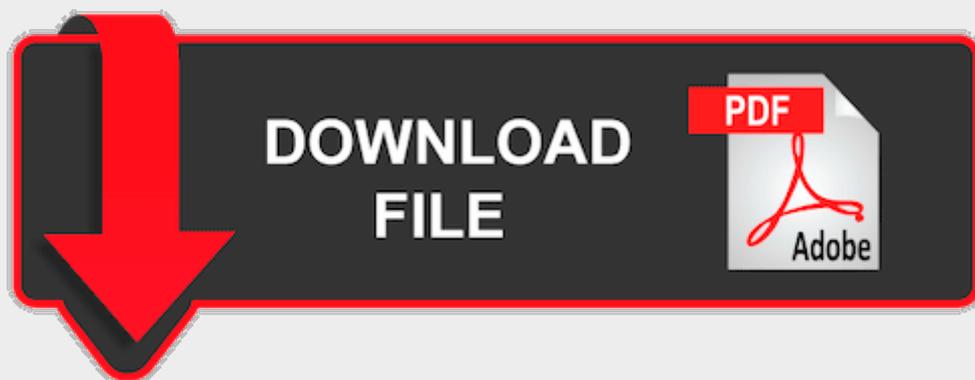
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Returning to Rome after his mission to Germania, Falco finds that his mother is being harassed by a centurion named Censorinus, who says he is chasing a debt owed to him by Falcos brother Festus. Censorinus claims that Festus was involved in a syndicate, shipping valuable statues from Greece and that even when his ship sunk, Festus had guaranteed that everyone in the group would get their money back. Now, however, Festus is dead, and Falco knows he didn't leave a legacy. When Falco refuses to cough up any money, he and Censorinus end up fighting, and later, the centurion turns up dead. Under suspicion of murder, Falco must confront his past and uncover his brother's secrets before he can clear his name and solve the mystery.



Reviews of the Poseidon's Gold by Lindsey Davis

1. WOGY

I have read everything written by Lindsey Davies and am especially grateful for the Falco mysteries. The character and her books have opened up a whole new world for me in Roman history and a way of viewing the world. I first heard of Davies through a recommendation by Mike Duncan of the History of Rome podcasts. A listener sent in a recommendation for Davies' historical accuracy and superior writing. I quickly learned there was a whole library of mysteries ahead of me and the fact that I was reading them while listening to the History of Rome put both the novels and the history in contrast in a very real way. Most exciting was the fact that I had the opportunity to visit Rome while reading the series and trying to imagine myself in the hero's footsteps as I walked the Aventine hill and the Roman forum! I highly recommend the whole series!

2. Ionzar

Fresh back from Germany, Falco lands in the middle of a family secret that threatens to bankrupt him or, worse, send him to the executioner or, even worse, cost him his girlfriend Helena Justina. In the process of this latest adventure, Falco has to come to terms with the last deeds and death of his brother, Festus, and we get a more in-depth introduction to the extended Didius family.

Although there are side trips to Ostia and Capua, the bulk of the action takes place in Rome as Falco tries to clear his brother's name and accounts and keep himself from the city strangler. Along the way we learn a lot about the world of art collecting and other home decorating, and celebrate Falco's 31st birthday and the anniversary of his first kiss with Helena. (After six books has it really been only a year?)

This book features many threads, all of which are (too?) neatly tied up by the end, in Davis' familiar witty style. It also inches forward the Falco/Helena relationship, with the by-now-expected hiccups and speed bumps, hope and heartbreak, that keeps us wondering what will finally overcome the by-now familiar obstacles: he needs 400,000 sesterces to qualify for the Equestrian (Knight) class; as a Knight he'd be only one rank below the Senatorial Helena Justina, so it wouldn't be too scandalous to her Senatorial family for him to marry her. Family approval is more or less

there; the money isn't; even with the money, he needs the Emperor's power/approval as Censor to enroll him in the appropriate class. Vespasian has both offered him Knighthood, and turned him down when he learned why Falco wanted it, in "The Silver Pigs." This book offers both hope and heartbreak for Falco's ambitions.

Although individual scenes are entertaining, the pacing is a bit slow, and an Informer as talented as Falco should by rights have figured out many of puzzles far earlier. But where family is concerned we often have blind spots, so it's forgivable.

3. Aria

The continuation of Didius Markus Falco. I'm committed to reading the whole series. I have read the first few and the last bunch. The middle ones are getting rarer. Lindsey Davis has moved on to Falco's daughter as the subject of her new books. The detail of Roman life delivered in her English writing style is the best.

4. Cordalas

This is by far the funniest Falco I've read in the series. Here we are drenched in the characters that make up Marcus's family. They are humorous, irritating, and unforgettable. Like I said, it's as though Everybody Loves Raymond went back in time to Imperial Rome.

5. Kalrajas

Poseidon's Gold is an entertaining romp in the Lindsey Davis Didius Falco

series. The plot line moves at a brisk pace with a good amount of character development to keep the reader happily engaged.

6. Wanenai

Another enticing story of the greatest detective of ancient Rome! Lots of Falco's dry humor and a great chance to meet more of his interesting family.

7. Sharpbinder

Lindsey Davis' Falco and Helena novels set in ancient Rome are unique and very enjoyable

8. This is not the best of the five books dramatized and doesn't stand up well unless you have heard the prior 4 stories: "Silver Pigs", "Shadows in Bronze", "Venus in Copper" and The "The Iron Hand of Mars." Like all fictional series, the characters grow and develop with each story.

Linsey Davis has written about 17 of the Didius Falco informer (detective) stories. Unfortunately, the BBC has only done full cast dramatizations of the first 5 books. I find them a lot of fun because although the stories were abridged, you don't lose the spirit or essentials of the story. These stories give you a good feeling of what it must have been like to live in the Roman Empire in the time of the Emperor Vespasian (around 70 AD).

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