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Detectives In Togas



Synopsis

In these two delightful history-mysteries, seven boys in Ancient Rome solve strange crimes . . . thanks to some help from their cranky teacher, a little bit of logic, and a lot of amusing misadventure. Yes, Rufus wrote Caius Is A Dumbbell on his tablet at school, but no, he did not break into the schoolroom, did not tie up his teacher, and certainly did not paint his slur about Caius on the Temple of Minerva (even if it is in Rufus's own handwriting). Rufus is doomed unless his six classmates can find out who is really responsible. Every hour seems to bring a new, confusing clue . . . until the boys finally stumble upon someone who is not what he appears to be.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book when I was a child, being book-eating, book-loving from the age of six onwards. This book is real fun for kids , telling a charming story of little Roman boys who have kindness, a sense of adventure, and the right spirit to help their friend. They solve a dark mystery, hiking throughout the City of Ancient Rome (not very ancient for them, but their home) in order to do that. The novel has sinister characters as well, with sinister names (but I should not tell what this is about...), but it is not cruel or violent. I liked the book very much, and the fact that I remembered it after such a long time when I came across it in the catalogue, is telling. I want to be its champion here, because it gives - like a good historic fiction book should - you a familiarity for the characters their life and life style. After reading I wanted to have the second book in the series (which exists, by the way), because I could not wait for the next adventure. I ended up never minding to learn Latin at

school, after all it was the language of Caius, Rufus and the rest of the gang.(Charlotte Esser, Germany)

This book is suitable for any ages. It's so funny and deftly written I was laughing on the bus and everyone thought I was nuts. Read it and see why...It starts around dawn, when two boys at a prestigious school have a fight, and one of them gets kicked out. Later, he's accused of a horrible crime and arrested, and his friends all rush to save him. The author skillfully puts in all the boys, and you get to know them along the way. Rufus (the one who's kind of poor; his father's a general, who causes the trouble; Caius (the oaf, who fought with Rufus), Mucius (the leader, hard-working and a little pompous at times), Julius (the bright one, with sound logic and perception), Antonius (the daredevil with an active imagination), Publius (the wit, sarcastic and sceptical), and Flavius (timid and meek but has nice writing). Blending historical fact with hilarious blunders, rich with snappy dialogue and runaway clues, it's highly enjoyable from the start all the way to the surprise ending. I love it!

This book is a comical mystery about seven rich boys who live in ancient Rome and go to the Xanthos school for boys. Caius isn't very bright, Rufus is the class clown, Mucius is a hard worker, Flavius is the slow boy, Antonius is the fast boy, Publius is the poorest one, and Julius is the boy with the best ideas. In the beginning of the book, Caius and Rufus pick a fight with each other. Rufus, the class clown wrote, "Caius is a dumbbell" on a writing tablet. The teacher cruelly punishes Rufus and kicks him out of school. The next day, when the teacher didn't show up for school, they went to his house and found him manacled. Everything in his house was demolished. The same day, another crime was committed. Graffiti was found on the temple wall that was dedicated to Caius' father, Senator Vinivius...I think this was a great book with an unbelievable ending. The ending was so awesome because I never saw it coming.

My fifth grade class just read this book for our reading group. It was amazing! The suspense and the humor added just the right touch to this wonderful book. I won't give too much away because it would ruin the suspense. Seven young Romans attend the Xanthos school. Two students, Rufus and Caius, get into a fight over a tablet reading 'Caius is a Dumbell' that Rufus wrote. The next day in red paint, the same thing is written on a temple dedicated to the Emperor, who is Caius' father! But Rufus is innocent. I really enjoyed this book, and you will too! Enjoy!

I read this book in junior high school, and loved it then. I remembered it when offered it to me based on another purchase I made, one of those "if you bought A, you may like B" offers. So I bought it and I enjoyed it a lot now, 40+ years later. It's a wonderful book for kids, it's characters are fun, the Roman setting is interesting. I enjoyed it so much, I bought the sequel. I have really enjoyed re-discovering the books I loved when I was a teenager through . It's a wonderful service.

This book is hilarious and one of the greatest mysteries ever written. When I read a mystery I usually at least have a guess of how it ends, but i couldn't even imagine the ending of this book.

I searched for this book for months in used book stores around town before it occurred to me to look here. Regardless, I read this thirty years ago and recently to my 5 year-old son Felipe. As I have read much Greek and Roman mythology to him I had been at a loss trying to relate ancient Rome as a living city to him. He understands the ruins and the appearances thereof from Nat'l Geographic This book filled him with the images of the ancient city as a regular place for kids and people-something different than the decadent structures we see today. My fondest recollections of this book from my childhood were picturing the images of the academy the boys attended, Caius' home, the temple and other places in Rome. Until I studied Western Civ and read more sophisticated literature, my clearest and most descriptive pictures of Rome were somehow related to this book whose title I only recently recalled. A kind of archaic Hardy Boys thing that was really quite fun! to read.

This year for my 6th grade english class we had to read Detectives in togas. this book has a very slow beginning but after a few pages it takes you into this amazing mystery . where a group of boys are trying to save there friend rufus from jail after being framed. So dont be discouraged by its slow beginning because if you do you wont get to read the rest of this amazing book. Take my advice and get this great book.

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