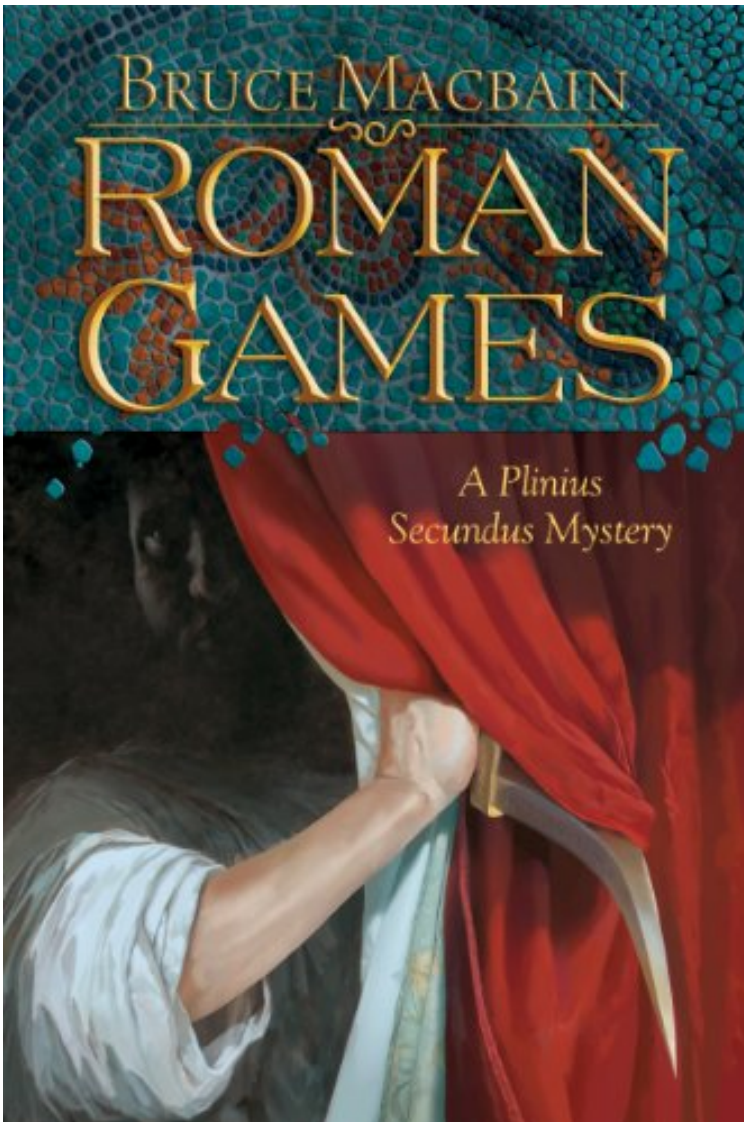


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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurRome: September, 96 AD. When the body of Sextus Verpa, a notorious senatorial informer and libertine, is found stabbed to death in his bedroom, his slaves are suspected. Pliny is ordered by the emperor Domitian to investigate. However, the Ludi Romani, the Roman Games, have just begun and for the next fifteen days the law courts are in recess. If Pliny cant identify the murderer in that time, Verpas entire slave household will be burned alive in the arena. Pliny, a very respectable young senator and lawyer,

teams up with Martial, a starving author of bawdy verses and denizen of the Roman demimonde. Pooling their respective talents, they unravel a plot that involves Jewish and Christian atheists, exotic Egyptian cultists, and a missing horoscope that forecasts the emperors death. Their investigation leads them into the heart of the palace, where no one is safe from the paranoid emperor. As the deadline approaches, Pliny struggles with the painful dilemma of a good man who is forced to serve a brutal regimea situation familiar in our own age as well. The novel provides an intimate glimpse into the palaces and tenements, bedrooms and brothels of imperial Romes most opulent and decadent age.

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Biographie de l'auteur Bruce Macbain holds a BA in Classics from the University of Chicago and a PhD. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught Greek and Roman history at Vanderbilt and Boston University. His special interest is religion in the Roman Empire. He enjoys traveling and was one of the first Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Borneo. He lives with his wife in Brookline, MA.