

## Forum Romanum: Prologues

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### CHAPTER I: GRAECIA CAPTA

DATE	March 1, 86 BC
TOP STORY	Lucius Cornelius Sulla has taken Athens!
FEATURE	Editorial by the actor Roscius Gallus on the benefits of Greek culture

In the top story, we learn that the Roman general Sulla has finally captured Athens. Athens had sided with King Mithridates of Pontus (in Asia Minor) in his war against the Romans. This episode's title, *Graecia Capta*, comes from a line by the poet Horace: *Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit et artes intulit agresti Latio* ("Greece, though captured, captured its fierce victor and brought the arts upon uncultured Latium"). Horace's line—a precursor to "the pen being is than the sword"—points out the superiority of Greek culture over Roman culture and its effect upon Roman life. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C., while the Roman legions marched in conquest throughout Greece, Greek culture was overpowering the younger, less robust culture of Roman Italy. Victorious Roman generals returned to the fatherland with Greek books, sculpture...even Greek intellectuals, all of which fired the Roman upper crust's interest in things Greek. Some old-fashioned Romans, notably Cato the Elder, reacted strongly against this onslaught of Greek art, literature, drama—and the "un-Roman" ideals that came with it. This episode of *Forum Romanum* focuses on the continuing debate in Italy over whether the effects of Greek culture were good for Rome and the Romans. Roscius Gallus, who gives the editorial in this episode, is a famous actor, renowned throughout Italy for his good looks and theatrical genius. As you would expect, Roscius sides with those who think Greek culture is good for Italy. In his opinion, Greek culture has brought nothing but benefit to the Roman state.

### CHAPTER II: HANNIBAL AD PORTAS

DATE	Summer, 211 BC
TOP STORY	Hannibal is at the gates of Rome!
FEATURE	Interview with Fabius Maximus Cunctator

This episode is set during the Second Punic War (218-202 BC), when Hannibal led the Carthaginians against Rome. In the top story, we learn that Hannibal and his Punic army are camped just outside the gates of Rome. Having crossed the Alps and invaded Italy a few years earlier, Hannibal has thus far defeated all Roman armies sent against him. Fabius Maximus, interviewed in this episode, was a patrician ex-consul (*consularis*) and former dictator, who long advocated a very "un-Roman" strategy: avoid open battle with Hannibal. Instead, Fabius insisted, the Romans should isolate and harass Hannibal, cutting his army off from supplies and reinforcements. For this overly defensive, piecemeal approach to conducting war, Fabius was given the nickname "*Cunctator*" ("the delayer"). Today, the term "Fabian" means taking a cautious, gradual approach and avoiding direct conflict. Hannibal, as it turned out, did not take Rome. His march on the city was meant to frighten the Romans into recalling its armies from southern Italy. The Romans held firm and Hannibal eventually withdrew. About a decade later, Hannibal was finally defeated in North Africa by the Roman general Scipio Africanus (whose invasion of Africa had been vehemently opposed by the same Fabius Maximus).

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### CHAPTER III: AEDES APOLLINIS

DATE	October 9, 28 BC
TOP STORY	Octavian has dedicated a temple to Apollo on the Palatine Hill.
FEATURE	Interview with the Cumaean Sibyl

In this episode Octavian, soon to assume the title *Augustus* as Rome's first emperor, dedicates a temple to Apollo on the Palatine Hill. Octavian had long considered Apollo his patron deity and credited Apollo with helping him defeat Cleopatra (and Antony) at Actium. It was this naval victory in September of 31 BC that left Octavian master of the Roman world. This episode of *Forum Romanum* focuses not on Octavian/Augustus, but on Apollo. The sun god's many mythical attributes and associations—the lyre, the laurel, poetry, archery, and the Muses—are discussed. Though the god of male beauty, Apollo's love life was not always a rousing success. Mentioned briefly are the tales of Daphne and Cassandra, two women who rejected the amorous advances of this handsome, long-haired god. For this show, Apollo's priestess in Italy grants Iulia Pauli an interview from her cave at Cumae, near the bay of Naples. This Italian sibyl (another famous sibyl lived at the Greek city of Delphi) serves as the mouthpiece for Apollo as god of prophecy. She explains how the god uses her to foretell the future and reveals how she too was once an unwilling target of Apollo's affection.

### CHAPTER IV: VESUVIUS ERUPIT!

DATE	August 24, AD 79
TOP STORY	Mount Vesuvius is erupting!
FEATURE	Interview with Pliny the Younger

The late-breaking news of this episode is the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, the famous volcano in Campania, south of Rome. Inhabitants of the area, who had thought that the volcano was dormant, were caught unprepared when it erupted in AD 79. The intrepid Iulia Pauli, ever prepared, is on location at Misenum, a town on the Bay of Naples from which the eruption was plainly visible. There she interviews the eyewitness Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus (more commonly known as Pliny the Younger). He describes the massive cloud of ash that rose from Vesuvius when it erupted and fears for his uncle, who took off in a boat several hours ago and has not yet returned. When the episode closes, we are still uncertain about the severity of this natural disaster. As it turned out, of course, three towns near Vesuvius—Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae—were buried in a matter of hours. Because they were sealed for centuries by volcanic debris, now these places offer archaeologists a rare opportunity to study what was, before the eruption, a typical day in the life of an ancient town. If you visit the ruins of Pompeii today, you can walk the streets, visit the shops, and see the homes that would have been part of an ancient Pompeiiian's experience. And what happened to the family we encounter in this episode? The young Pliny's fears about his uncle were well founded: Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79), overcome by fumes from the eruption, died as he tried to assist the citizens of Stabiae. Thus ended the life of this well-known military commander and natural historian. Pliny the Younger (AD 61-112), a young man at the time of the eruption, went on to become a prominent public figure. He had a successful legal career, reached the consulship at Rome, and was appointed by the emperor Trajan to oversee the eastern province Bithynia. Pliny also wrote essays about Roman life and society, in the form of letters to his friends. A famous letter (6.16) is addressed to the historian Tacitus (AD 55-117), who had asked his friend Pliny to write down a detailed description of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Pliny's eyewitness account is a fascinating document to read in Latin.

*CHAPTER V: CAESAR CAESUS!*

DATE	March 15, 44 BC
TOP STORY	Julius Caesar has been assassinated!
FEATURE	Editorial by Marc Antony

A shocking report has just come in to the *Forum Romanum* newsroom: Julius Caesar, Rome's dictator, has been stabbed to death by a group of senators! Reporter Iulia Pauli has interviewed eyewitnesses and recounts in vivid detail how Brutus and Cassius led their fellow conspirators in the murder of Caesar, who finally fell at the base of a statue of Pompey. The conspirators celebrated their freedom, calling Caesar a tyrant. This episode of *Forum Romanum* features an editorial written by Caesar's staunch supporter Mark Antony. Antony, asked whether Caesar was a tyrant, defends the dictator by pointing out that Caesar's military exploits in the Gallic Wars, at the Rubicon, and in Asia brought glory and fame to Rome. Caesar, Antony says, may have been arrogant, but he was not interested in becoming king—nor was he a tyrant. According to Aulus Senecus, weather conditions in Rome reflect the turmoil in the city, and perhaps even indicate the anger of the gods: wind and thunderstorms prevail. A run-through of the weather beyond Italy serves to highlight how widely Caesar traveled and what he accomplished in his campaigns in Gaul, Britain, Germany, Greece, Asia, and Egypt.

*CHAPTER VI: NON HUMILIS MULIER*

DATE	August 10, 30 BC
TOP STORY	Cleopatra has committed suicide!
FEATURE	Interview with the poet Horatius Flaccus (Horace)

Today's top story is the suicide of the Egyptian queen Cleopatra, who is said to have died from the bite of an asp shortly after Octavian took her capital city of Alexandria. Cleopatra was the last of the Ptolemies, royals of Macedonian origin who had ruled Egypt since the time of Alexander the Great. With her death, Egypt became a Roman province and the treasures of the Ptolemies came under Roman control. Iulia Pauli reports from the Forum, where she interviews passersby for their reaction to this momentous news. The poet Horace happens along, meditating on the incredible power of Cleopatra, who was sophisticated and intelligent enough to beguile both Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, and bold enough to go into battle against Octavian at Actium (31 BC). One of Horace's most famous poems (*Odes* 1.37) commemorates Octavian's victory there, Cleopatra's suicide in the following year, and the triple triumph that Octavian celebrated upon his return to Rome in 29. The line with which Horace opened his poem—*Nunc est bibendum*—appears in this episode, as do two phrases he used to describe Cleopatra: *fatale monstrum* and *non humilis mulier*. Look for other echoes of *Odes* 1.37, and of Horace's other poetry, in Iulia Pauli's interview with him.

## CHAPTER VII: NATALIS URBIS

DATE	April 21, 30 AD
TOP STORY	Today is Rome's birthday!
FEATURE	Interview with Livia, daughter of the historian Titus Livius (Livy)

Today's episode takes place during the Parilia, a celebration of Rome's birthday. The festival, held each year on April 21, originally honored Pales, a rustic deity associated with livestock. By AD 30, however, when this episode takes place, the date April 21 was also identified as the date on which Romulus founded the city of Rome. Where should we look for the story of the legendary founding of Rome, if not in the work called *Ab urbe condita* (*From the Founding of the City*)? This monumental history of Rome by Titus Livius, or Livy (59 BC–AD 17), originally ran to some 142 books, but less than a quarter of it has survived intact. Fortunately, among the surviving books are the first five, which deal with the hazy early history of Rome. Their mix of history and legend makes for very interesting reading. Given that it is Rome's birthday, it seems fitting to reflect on the colorful history of Rome in this episode of *Forum Romanum*. Iulia Pauli has an exclusive interview with Livia Magi, the daughter of the historian Livy. Livia speaks first of her father's dedication to his *magnum opus*, a work that made him famous the world over. Then she reveals her favorite sections of her father's history. She loves to read the stories of Romulus and Remus, the Sabine women, and Lucretia, as well as those of the old-time Roman heroes Horatius, Mucius Scaevola, Cloelia, and Cincinnatus.

## CHAPTER VIII: INCENDIUM MAGNUM

DATE	July 26, AD 64
TOP STORY	The Great Fire in Rome is finally out!
FEATURE	Interview with one of the <i>vigiles</i>

In the top story, we learn that a massive fire that has ravaged the city of Rome for nine days has finally been extinguished. The fire started in shops near the Circus Maximus, where the narrow streets were overcrowded with buildings, and it quickly spread through the area between the Palatine and Esquiline Hills. Only a few sections of the city were left untouched, and by the time the fire was put out, thousands of people were dead or homeless. After the fire, the Emperor Nero instituted programs to help the homeless, as well as new building codes to make future construction fireproof—but he did not endear himself to Romans when he appropriated a huge piece of devastated land between the Palatine and Esquiline. This acreage had been a residential area, but in the hands of Nero's architects and landscapers it became the grounds of a sumptuous palace, the Domus Aurea, the ruins of which can be seen in Rome today. Because Nero ultimately benefited personally from the fire, a rumor went around the city that the emperor himself had started it, singing of the destruction of Troy as Rome went up in flames. To deflect suspicion from himself, Nero blamed the fire on the Christian community in Rome. Many Christians were tortured and put to death. In this episode, Iulia Pauli interviews a *vigilis*—a member of Rome's firefighting brigade. The *vigiles*, the majority of whom were freed slaves, used many of the same tactics that are used in modern firefighting. Favillus, as our *vigilis* is called, describes how he and his fellow *vigiles* destroyed buildings in the fire's path to keep the blaze from gaining strength.

*CHAPTER IX: NOSTER TVLLIVS*

DATE	December 7, 43 B.C.
TOP STORY	Marcus Cicero has been murdered!
FEATURE	Interview with Terentia, wife of Cicero

Marcus Tullius Cicero is the subject of this episode. As the top story relates, Marc Antony, fed up with Cicero's oratorical abuse, had placed the speaker's name on the proscription lists published by the so-called Second Triumvirate. Cicero was therefore declared an enemy of the state and as such was caught and killed by Antony's soldiers. Cicero's head and hands were cut off and taken back to Rome for display on the *rostra* (speaker's platform) in the Forum. It was from this same *rostra* that Cicero had delivered many stirring orations, including several of the anti-Antony *Philippics*, the speeches that ultimately cost Cicero his life. This episode features an interview with Cicero's ex-wife Terentia (After many years of marriage and two children, Cicero had divorced Terentia just a few years before his death.) Iulia Pauli's interview with Terentia follows closely upon the orator's death and attempts to paint a portrait of the man who through his oratorical genius rose from obscurity to the highest offices of the Roman Republic.

*CHAPTER X: PANEM ET CIRCENSES*

DATE	June 5, AD 80
TOP STORY	The Flavian Amphitheater (Colosseum) has been dedicated!
FEATURE	Interview with the satirist Juvenal

Today Romans are celebrating the dedication of the Amphitheatrum Flavium (known to us as the Colosseum), a magnificent venue where about 50,000 spectators at a time could watch shows of all kinds, including gladiatorial contests and animal hunts. The amphitheater was built over the course of a decade by two of Rome's Flavian emperors: Vespasian began work on the building and his successor Titus completed it in AD 80. The structure was beautiful to look at—its façade included all three architectural orders—and had a cleverly designed interior. Among its engineering marvels were subterranean elevators, used to bring animals up from cages below the arena floor, and the *velarium*, a canvas awning that could be pulled over the amphitheater to shield spectators from the Roman sun. Iulia Pauli is on location at the amphitheater, where she interviews one of the spectators. It turns out to be the poet Juvenal, author of a series of satires condemning the corruption and decadence of Roman culture in the time of the Flavian emperors. Juvenal's conversation with Iulia makes it clear that the spectacles that emperors put on to gain favor with the Roman people hold no appeal for him: he is disgusted by the sight of condemned criminals being fed to beasts, and does not count himself among those who love (as he wrote in one of his poems) "bread and circuses" (*panem et circenses*).

**CHAPTER XI: AENEIS VERGILI**

<b>DATE</b>	October 15
<b>TOP STORY</b>	Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i> has finally been published!
<b>FEATURE</b>	Review of the <i>Aeneid</i> by Maecenas, patron of literature and the arts

This episode takes place about a month after the death of one of Rome's greatest poets (Vergil), when his greatest poem (the *Aeneid*) is finally being published. Publius Vergilius Maro (70–19 BC) had worked for a decade on the *Aeneid*, an epic retelling of the founding of Rome by Aeneas, a Trojan noble who fled Troy after the Trojan War. When Vergil fell seriously ill on a trip in 19 BC, he felt that his poem was still unfinished, and is said to have ordered his friends to burn it if he died. The poem survived, however, to become an instant classic in its own day—as it still is in ours. Iulia Pauli's interview is with Gaius Maecenas, a close friend of the emperor Augustus as well as a famous literary patron whose circle included Vergil, Horace, and Propertius. Maecenas offers some details about Vergil's life and character, along with his assessment of the epic that is now being published. He talks about the parts of the poem he likes best—as well as those he likes least—and quotes some of his favorite lines. Finally, Aulus Serenus' weather report, which highlights places that were significant in Vergil's life and works, rounds out this celebration of Vergil's life. It is fitting that it takes place on what would have been the poet's fifty-first birthday.

**CHAPTER XII: GENUS TOGATA**

<b>DATE</b>	March 17, 180 AD
<b>TOP STORY</b>	The emperor Marcus Aurelius has died!
<b>FEATURE</b>	To celebrate the Liberalia, a discussion of the toga and a fashion show

The breaking news in this episode is the death of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (AD 121–80, emperor 161–80). Throughout his years as guardian of the empire he protected it from incursions by various tribes, and had ambitious plans for its expansion—in fact, he died at Vindobona (modern Vienna) while on a military campaign. He also devoted much of his time to the study of philosophy, particularly that of the Stoics. Today, Marcus Aurelius is perhaps best remembered for his *Meditations*, in which he recorded, in Greek, his musings on such topics as personal duty, virtue, and the nature of the gods. He was the last of Rome's "five good emperors," who presided over a period of relative harmony and prosperity from 96 to 180. Marcus Aurelius was succeeded by his only surviving son, Commodus, who by the end of his twelve-year rule was generally viewed as a dangerous madman. It so happens that today's broadcast takes place during the Liberalia—the annual festival of Liber, a Roman god of fertility and wine often associated with the Greek Dionysus. Liber may also have presided over the transition of boys from childhood to adulthood, because it was during his festival that boys ceremonially put on the *toga virilis*, or the toga of manhood. The *Forum Romanum* crew has decided that the Liberalia is the perfect time to air a fashion show, so in this episode fashion expert Pomponia Mela offers an in-depth look at the different types of clothing popular among Romans.

*CHAPTER XIII: DE ARTE COQVINARIA*

DATE	AD 26
TOP STORY	Emperor Tiberius has left Rome for the island of Capri.
FEATURE	Apicius gives a lesson in Roman cooking

In this episode, Tiberius (emperor AD 14–37) has just left Rome for the imperial estate on the island of Capreae (Capri), where he is said to have indulged shamelessly in various pleasures—including gastronomic ones. *Forum Romanum* takes this opportunity to look at the gourmet food scene in Rome. Celebrity chef Marcus Apicius is on hand to discuss the health benefits of various foods and the condiments that can be used to spice them up. He also shares recipes and demonstrates cooking techniques. Marcus Apicius was a real person who lived in the time of Tiberius and was well known in the world of haute cuisine, but the book that is often attributed to him (*De arte coquinaria*), from which this episode takes its name, was actually written in the fourth century. This episode features the premiere of a new segment (*De Ludis*), which will cover recent happenings in the world of Roman sports. Sportscaster Scirtus Agitator, formerly a driver on the chariot-racing circuit, reports on his favorite sport with particular gusto.

*CHAPTER XIV: FORTUNA MULIEBRIS*

DATE	46 BC
TOP STORY	Julius Caesar gives magnificent gladiatorial games in memory of his daughter Julia
FEATURE	Interview with Atia, niece of Julius Caesar and mother of Octavius

The year is 46 BC, and all of Rome is turning out for the magnificent games that are being sponsored by Julius Caesar in honor of his daughter Julia. When Julia, the wife of Caesar's then-associate Pompey, was so popular in Rome that when she died in childbirth in 58, the people demanded that she be buried in the Campus Martius. This Julia was part of a long line of illustrious women in the family known as the *gens Iulia*. Since Julia's life is being commemorated today, her cousin Atia speaks with *Forum's* Iulia Pauli about what life is like for Roman women. Atia first reminisces about her own life, recounting her early betrothal and marriage, and then reflects on the life of her cousin Julia. Julia, as was common for Roman girls, had married a much older man when Caesar arranged her marriage to Pompey. Atia's description of Julia as an exemplary Roman *matrona* does not sit well with Atia's maid (*ancilla*), who is from a generation with more traditional ideals of womanhood. The *ancilla* deplores the behavior of modern Roman women, who even attend drinking parties with their husbands!

*CHAPTER XV: CIRCUM MARE NOSTRUM*

DATE	AD 167
TOP STORY	Rome continues to be ravaged by a deadly plague.
FEATURE	Interview with savvy traveler Pausanias

By AD 167, the date of today's episode, the Roman empire was vast and heavily populated, and networks of roads were making travel within it more and more manageable. All of these factors combined to have one most unpleasant consequence—a plague, perhaps smallpox, that swept through the empire. Desperate Romans, as was customary in desperate times, sent a delegation to Apollo's shrine at Delphi (Greece) to discover how the god could be persuaded to end the plague. The intrepid Iulia Pauli is on location at the shrine. While she waits for the Roman delegates to return from their meeting with Apollo's priestess, we see an interview that she recorded earlier in the day with a well-known personage she met at Delphi. Pausanias, a Greek travel writer whose *Description of Greece* is still used by ancient historians and archaeologists today, was particularly interested in the great Greek religious sites like that of Apollo at Delphi. As he tells Iulia Pauli, he has traveled far and wide—even as far as Egypt—in search of material for his book. In addition to the facts about the lands and monuments he is seeing, Pausanias likes to find out what myths and legends lie behind them. As much as he enjoys his wanderings, travel is still a hit-or-miss experience: while the roads throughout the Roman empire in the second century AD are generally good and quite safe, the lodging situation is another story.

*CHAPTER XVI: DE ARTIBUS MAGICIS*

DATE	AD 57
TOP STORY	Nero gives spectacular games—and compels nobles to take part!
FEATURE	Interview with Locusta, notorious poisoner and sorceress

In today's top story, Nero (emperor 54–68) is sponsoring one of the spectacular festivals that made him so popular among Rome's lower classes. Such festivals, or games (*ludi*), gave Romans a respite from their work and provided various forms of entertainment such as chariot racing, gladiatorial fights, and pantomimes. Nero, a dabbler in the arts and an aspiring actor, raised eyebrows in Rome by taking part in competitions himself—and on this occasion he has compelled a number of Roman nobles to join him. Nero was the last of the Julio-Claudians, the imperial dynasty that was inaugurated by Augustus in 27 BC and ruled Rome for ninety-five years, and he holds the dubious honor of being one of the more colorful characters in that line—second perhaps only to Caligula! While Nero's reign had a promising beginning, it soon deteriorated, as the young emperor devoted himself to his interests (such as travel in Greece) and pleasures (singing and acting), leaving the day-to-day administration of the empire to his increasingly dangerous and corrupt advisers. By the end of his reign, it had become difficult for prominent Romans simply to stay alive: charges of treason and disloyalty were frequent and often arbitrary. Poisoning was a preferred method for the discreet removal of enemies. In this episode, Iulia Pauli speaks with Locusta, a famed poisoner and sorceress. The empress Agrippina is said to have used Locusta's services to get rid of her husband Claudius (emperor 41–54) so that Nero, her son from a former marriage, could assume the imperial power. Britannicus, Claudius' own son, also fell victim to Locusta's poison—perhaps at Nero's instigation. These years are chronicled by Tacitus and Suetonius, but nowhere are the palace intrigues more vividly brought to life than in Robert Graves' novel *I, Claudius* (also an excellent BBC production available on PBS video).



*CHAPTER XVII: CARMEN ET ERROR*

DATE	AD 9
TOP STORY	Military disaster in Germany!
FEATURE	Interview with the poet Ovid, recently exiled

Headlining this episode of *Forum Romanum* is the shocking report of a terrible military disaster in Germany (AD 9). The Roman general Varus was treacherously led into an ambush in the forests of Germany and three legions—about twenty thousand men—were annihilated. This catastrophe led the emperor Augustus to abandon plans for Roman expansion into Germany. The focus of this episode, however, is the poet Ovid. In the year before the German disaster, Augustus, fed up with the perceived immorality of the poet's verse, exiled Ovid to the distant regions of the Black Sea. In the *Persona Notanda* segment, Iulia Pauli interviews a dejected Ovid, formerly the darling of Rome's "jet set," who speaks from his new home in Tomis. A flat, treeless, remote outpost of the empire, Tomis was located in modern-day Romania. Here Ovid composed his *Tristia* (from Latin *tristis*), a collection of poems in which he laments his fate and begs the emperor for a reprieve. For Ovid, the punishment does not match his crime, which he describes merely as *carmen et error*. The *carmen* is generally taken to be his poem *Ars amatoria*, a handbook on the art of seduction. The substance of the *error* is less certain. It is known, however, that in the year of Ovid's banishment, Augustus also exiled his granddaughter Julia amid accusations of adultery. Perhaps Ovid was somehow involved.

*CHAPTER XVIII: MORITURI TE SALUTANT*

DATE	AD 86
TOP STORY	<i>Agon Capitolinus</i> —games that follow Greek tradition—instituted by the Domitian
FEATURE	Interview with retired gladiator Crescens, who discusses his life in the arena

Today's top story is that Domitian (emperor 81–96) has instituted new games in Rome, the *Agon Capitolinus*. *Agon* is the Greek word for "contest." Like many upper-class Romans, Domitian was familiar with and fond of Greek culture, and his new games are designed on the model of ancient Greek festivals like the Olympics: they are to be celebrated every four years and will include athletic, musical, and poetic contests, which were not traditionally part of Roman games. For a unique perspective on these new games—and on Roman games in general—Iulia Pauli interviews a figure who was very much a part of traditional Roman games: a retired gladiator named Crescens. Crescens doesn't think much of Domitian's Greek-style games, and still believes that chariot races and gladiatorial fights are the most exciting forms of entertainment for Romans—although he finds today's gladiators somewhat soft compared with the men of his own day. Crescens' account of his successful career in the arena brings to life this most unusual of occupations. The words *Morituri te salutant!* ("Those about to die salute you!"), the title of this episode, are said to have been shouted by gladiators just before combat began (the formula is also given as *Nos morituri te salutamus!*—"We who are about to die salute you!").

**CHAPTER XIX: COMMENTARII CAESARIS**

<b>DATE</b>	46 BC
<b>TOP STORY</b>	Julius Caesar celebrates a grand triumph!
<b>FEATURE</b>	Interview with Caesar's officer Aulus Hirtius on the Gallic Wars and eyewitness reporting of Caesar's triumph in Rome

The top news story of this episode is that Julius Caesar is celebrating a triumph, the highest public honor accorded to Roman generals. This was one in a series of four triumphs granted to Caesar in 46 BC to honor the victories he had accumulated in the previous decade. Caesar had been engaged in almost constant fighting – sometimes against foreign enemies, sometimes against Roman rivals – and his ambitions had taken him to Gaul, Egypt, Asia Minor, and North Africa. In 46 Caesar was master of Rome, as both dictator and consul, and Romans hoped that the fighting had come to an end. These hopes, of course, were in vain. Caesar chronicled his most famous campaign, the subjugation of Gaul in the fifties BC, in his *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*. This work consists of eight books, seven by Caesar and one by his lieutenant Aulus Hirtius, who speaks with Lulia Pauli in this episode of *Forum Romanum*. In the interview, Hirtius passes along many of Caesar's observations on the appearance and customs of the Gauls. Their ferocity, long hair and unusual diet, along with reports that their druid priests engaged in human sacrifice, made them barbarians in the eyes of the Romans – watch for Scirtus Agitator's contemptuous treatment of the Gallic prisoners he encounters in the Forum. Both Aulus Serenus and Scirtus Agitator are on location in the Forum for this episode, giving eyewitness accounts of Caesar's triumph. They describe the massive parade of captured animals and treasures, prisoners of war, Roman soldiers, and the splendid chariot carrying Julius Caesar, the *triumphator* himself.

**CHAPTER XX: ODI ET AMO**

<b>DATE</b>	54 BC
<b>TOP STORY</b>	Julius Caesar invades Britain, again!
<b>FEATURE</b>	Interview with Catullus' "Lesbia" and a reading by the poet himself

Today's news is that Julius Caesar has invaded Britain for a second time. While he was engaged in his Gallic campaign, Caesar made two incursions into Britain (in 55 and 54 BC). These were more for exploratory purposes than anything else; the region was reported to be wealthy and its remoteness lent it an air of mystery. After some heavy fighting in 54, Caesar withdrew from the island, leaving it aside for future Roman conquest. An entire century passed before the Romans began to make progress in the Romanization of Britain. This episode focuses on Gaius Valerius Catullus, a young poet who traveled in the same social circles as Julius Caesar and whose poetry was all the rage in Rome in the middle of the first century BC. Catullus applied his poetic talents to a range of styles and subjects, but without a doubt, he is best known for the emotionally charged love poetry he addressed to his girlfriend, whom he called by the nickname Lesbia. In today's broadcast a woman claiming to be Lesbia speaks with Lulia Pauli, giving exclusive details of her tumultuous love affair with Catullus. That affair has ended badly, apparently because of Lesbia's infidelities. In the *De Ludis* segment of this episode, Catullus recites a poem in which he makes the final break with his former lover. The language of this episode is full of Catullan allusions and quotations. Now Catullus is celebrated for his lively subject matter and colloquial Latin, but in his own day there were those who disapproved of his style of poetry—in fact, our Scirtus Agitator is one of them. But Catullus seems to have cared little what others thought of him; even to the great Julius Caesar he wrote, "I have no particular desire to be liked by you."

**CHAPTER XXI: SPECTATORES, PLAUDITE!**

DATE	September, circa 160 BC
TOP STORY	The Ludi Romani are being celebrated in Rome
FEATURE	Interview with a comic actor and a scene from a play by Plautus

Today's top story is the celebration of the Ludi Romani, the oldest of many annual public festivals on the Roman calendar. These *ludi* gave Romans a holiday of several days' duration and offered them a wide range of entertainments, including circus races, gladiatorial contests, and dramatic performances. This last category included tragedies and comedies, genres that the Romans inherited from the ancient Greeks. Roman audiences especially enjoyed the comic plays, and in the hands of some talented playwrights Roman, comedy became a direct ancestor of modern drama. The premier names in Roman comedy, Titus Maccius Plautus and Publius Terentius Afer, both figure in this episode of *Forum Romanum*. At the Ludi Romani of 160 BC, Terence put on his comedy *Hecyra* ("The Mother-In-Law") – indeed, our Scirtus Agitator has just seen the play, which he found extremely dull. Terence was renowned for his refined wit and his skillful use of the Latin language, but his plays were not exactly hilarious. Scirtus no doubt prefers the works of Terence's predecessor Plautus, whose plays were performed around 200-190 BC. Plautus' plays, full of slapstick humor and zippy one-liners, had immense popular appeal and continued to be performed in Rome long after the playwright's death. In this episode, Iulia Pauli interviews a comic actor who is currently starring in a revival of one of Plautus' plays, the *Amphitryon*. He is joined by a fellow actor and – after some Plautine shenanigans – the two perform a scene from the play, which dramatizes part of the Hercules myth.

**CHAPTER XXII: ERUDITIO ET DOCTRINA**

DATE	March AD 90
TOP STORY	Minerva's festival of laborers (Quinquatrus) has ended
FEATURE	Scene in a Roman classroom and interview with the <i>magister</i>

Today's news is that the Quinquatrus, a springtime festival of Minerva, has just ended. That's bad news for the laborers who consider Minerva their patron goddess and who celebrated the Quinquatrus with particular zeal, but it's also bad news for Roman children, who have to head back to school now that the holiday is over. In this episode, Iulia Pauli presents a special report on Roman education. There was renewed interest in the topic in 90 AD, as the famous rhetorician and teacher Quintilian was writing his *Institutio Oratoria*, a work on the proper course of training for young Romans. Iulia Pauli goes on location to a Roman classroom, allowing us to observe children at their lessons. These students are clearly getting a good, traditional education as they recite lines from Vergil's *Aeneid*, practice Greek verb conjugations, and work on their Greek vocabulary. A little scene unfolds in the classroom, as a mischievous pupil (Marcus), none too happy to be shown up by a girl (Hortensia), complains that girls should not be in school in the first place. We also learn that the *magister* of this class, like many *magistri*, originally came from Greece. He has been involved in education for many years, and in his conversation with Iulia Pauli, he complains that young Marcus' generation is not sufficiently serious about school. This discussion of education prompts members of the *Forum Romanum* news team to recall their own experiences. The freedman Aulus Serenus got his education on the sly, joining his master's sons at their lessons. Scirtus Agitator, not surprisingly, thinks little of such formal training; like the vast majority of Roman boys, he went to the "school of hard knocks," picking up what he needed to know on the streets of Rome.

*CHAPTER XXIII: DE AQUIS URBIS ROMAЕ*

DATE	AD 97
TOP STORY	Frontinus has been named Curator of the Water Supply
FEATURE	Interview with Frontinus and a trip to the baths

The main news of the day is that Sextus Iulius Frontinus has been appointed Curator Aquarum Romae – *id est*, the officer responsible for the city's water supply. Frontinus (AD 30-104) had an illustrious career of public service under the emperors Domitian and Trajan and also wrote a series of practical handbooks on various topics. One of these was a two-volume work on the water supply of Rome (*De Aquis Urbis Romae*). Frontinus' fascination with water and hydraulics comes through in his interview with Iulia Pauli. After marveling at the many uses of water, he goes on to explain exactly how Rome receives its massive daily supply, tracing the water from its source through its long journey down one of many aqueducts. Once the water arrives safely in Rome (if, that is, the Curator Aquarum has succeeded in his duty to protect it from contamination and theft), it is used and flushed away through the Cloaca Maxima into the Tiber River and ultimately into the sea. The famed efficiency of the aqueducts meant that the Rome had plenty of water to be used simply for recreation. The public baths (*thermae*) were open to all, including women, and were immensely popular as gathering-places in Rome. Indeed, for many the trip to the baths was the highlight of the day, and the main point of going was not to get clean, but to socialize. In this episode, Aulus Serenus and Scirtus Agitator are on location at one of the bathhouses. Serenus enjoys going through all the different stages of the bathing process, but Agitator is more interested in the social scene, chatting with friends about sports and playing dice. The *palaestra*, where Agitator regularly goes to work out, is the setting for Serenus' weather report, but Serenus is in no mood to talk about the weather. Alas, he has just fallen prey to one of the many thieves who are said to have haunted the bath-buildings – today someone made off with his sandals!

*CHAPTER XXIV: PRIMIS SUPREMISQUE DIEBUS*

DATE	43 BC
TOP STORY	Consul Aulus Hirtius has died!
FEATURE	Funeral rites for Hirtius and a <i>susceptio</i> ceremony

This episode deals with rituals observed at the beginning and end of a Roman's life. News has just been brought to Rome that one of the consuls, Aulus Hirtius, has died in battle. (Dedicated *Forum Romanum* viewers may recall the interview with Hirtius, then Caesar's lieutenant, in an earlier episode; part of it is replayed in this show.) This sad occasion presents an opportunity for the *FR* news crew to give us an inside look at Roman funerary customs. After visiting the atrium of Hirtius himself to witness the ritual calling of the deceased (*conclamatio*), we join Scirtus Agitator in the forum for his description of the grand funeral procession. Hirtius, as was fitting for a man of his stature, received a public funeral with all its trappings – but, as Agitator points out somewhat resentfully, the death of a common Roman was never commemorated with such pomp. Still, magnificent public funerals did benefit the population at large, chiefly by providing entertainment: in addition to the impressive procession, games—including the ever-popular gladiatorial displays—were often put on in honor of the deceased. Viewers will notice right away that Iulia Pauli is filling in for Marcus Favonius at the news desk in this episode. Favonius has just become a father, and this joyous occasion prompts us to look at a ritual observed soon after a Roman's birth, the *susceptio*. *FR* cameras take us inside Favonius' atrium to see the news anchor pick up (the Latin word is *suscipere*) his daughter after she is placed on the ground, signifying his acceptance of the child as his own.