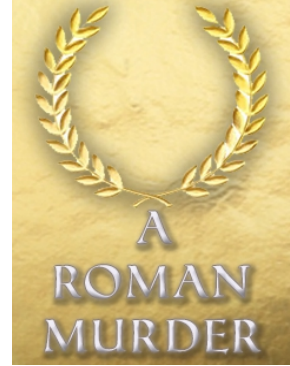




The Suspects



Lucilla

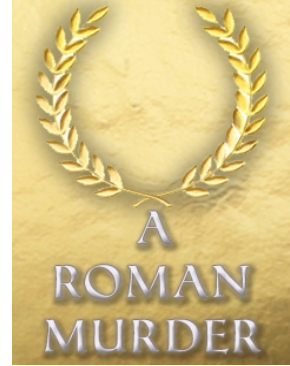
Sister to Commodus and daughter to Faustina and Marcus Aurelius, Lucilla has spent most of her life learning from her father, and watching his strategy, both in battle and as a ruler. As such, she is fair and just, and considers the good of the people above all else. Naturally, she has an open communication with a number of members of the Senate, and they respect her. Her only hope of power, though, is in an advisory role, as her father will most certainly name her brother, Commodus, his successor. Lucilla is poised and strong, and relentless when she believes she is working for the good of the empire. Lucilla is responsible for the party this evening, as she requested a "demonstration battle" between her favourite male gladiator, Thracius Gallus, and the most skilled gladiatrix, Caecilia, as entertainment during her birthday celebration.

Faustina

Empress of Rome, wife of Marcus Aurelius and mother of Lucilla and Commodus, Faustina is a strong female leader, and quite involved in her husband's joined running of the empire - so much so that she is known as "Mother of the Camp" by the soldiers, as she frequently accompanies her husband on military campaigns. Faustina is gracious and poised, and rarely lets anything alter her composure.

Caecilia

Caecilia is a gladiatrix, or a female gladiator. While not as common as their male counterparts, female gladiators are used in the Roman Empire and Caecilia in particular has caught the eye of Lucilla, the daughter of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Lucilla admires Caecilia's strength and skill as a female in the arena, and has asked to have her attend the celebration this evening to put on a "demonstration battle" against another crowd favourite, Thracius Gallus. Caecilia is quiet and soft-spoken, despite her brazen ferocity in the arena, and she has been known to defeat both men and beasts with the same mercilessness.



Marcus Aurelius

Emperor of Rome, Marcus Aurelius is actually a co-ruler, sharing the duties with another man named Lucius Verus, however it is Marcus Aurelius who is revered by the troops, and his reputation spans the vast expanse of the Roman Empire. Father of Commodus and Lucilla and husband of Faustina, Marcus Aurelius is stern and serious, but fiercely devoted to his family, and the Roman Empire as a whole. He is a natural philosopher and is very wise, both in military strategy as well as the politics of running an empire as vast as Rome.

Commodus

Son of Faustina the Empress and Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Commodus is their only surviving male son, and therefore is being groomed by his father to one day become emperor himself. While his sister, Lucilla, has more political acumen than Commodus and Commodus shows more interest in a life of luxury and pleasure over reigning, Marcus Aurelius has taken him on campaigns in the hopes of grooming him for greatness. In spite of his distinguished lineage, Commodus is selfish and unruly, but carries himself with such assurance that many hold out hope that he can yet become the one Roman who can follow the great Marcus Aurelius.

Thracius Gallus

A scribe-turned soldier for an enemy army, Thracius Gallus was sold into slavery after being captured by the Romans. Since, he has embraced his life as a gladiator, and has become a crowd favourite in The Colosseum. The people chant his name and shower him with rose petals as he emerges into the arena. Because of his success, Thracius Gallus has earned an honoured place as someone who is invited to privately entertain the emperor and his family at private events. Tonight, he was invited to battle Caecilia, a gladiatrix and another honoured invitee, and the two of them were to put on a "demonstration" battle as entertainment for Lucilla's birthday celebration.