

dictator novel robert harris

****Exploring the Depths of Power: The Dictator Novel by Robert Harris****

dictator novel robert harris has captivated readers with its masterful portrayal of political intrigue and the anatomy of authoritarian power. Robert Harris, renowned for his gripping historical thrillers, ventures into the realm of dictatorship with a novel that dissects the complexities of leadership, manipulation, and the human psyche under absolute rule. For those intrigued by the dynamics of totalitarian regimes and the personal stories woven within, Harris's work offers a compelling blend of fact and fiction, bringing to life the often shadowy corridors of power.

The Allure of the Dictator Novel: Why Robert Harris's Approach Stands Out

The genre of dictator novels traditionally explores the rise, reign, and fall of autocratic rulers, often highlighting the oppressive mechanisms and societal impacts of dictatorship. Robert Harris's novel distinguishes itself by combining meticulous historical research with a narrative style that is both accessible and deeply immersive. Unlike many political thrillers that focus solely on action or conspiracy, Harris delves into the psychological and moral dimensions of dictatorship, giving readers a nuanced understanding of what drives such leaders and how they maintain control.

Historical Context and Fictional Storytelling

One of the defining features of Robert Harris's dictator novel is his ability to weave historical facts with fictional elements seamlessly. Drawing inspiration from real-world dictatorships, Harris crafts characters and events that resonate with authenticity without being bound by strict historical accuracy. This balance allows readers to engage with the narrative on an emotional level while gaining insights into the broader political and social themes.

Key Themes Explored in Robert Harris's Dictator Novel

The richness of Harris's storytelling lies in the thematic layers embedded throughout the novel. Several recurring motifs stand out, providing readers with a deeper appreciation of the intricacies involved in dictatorship narratives.

Power and Corruption

At its core, the dictator novel by Robert Harris interrogates how absolute power can corrupt even the most ostensibly principled individuals. Through vivid character development, the novel charts the transformation of its protagonist from an ambitious leader to a figure consumed by paranoia and cruelty. This theme echoes historical realities, where unchecked power often leads to moral decay and societal harm.

The Role of Propaganda and Media Control

Another critical element in the novel is the exploration of propaganda's role in sustaining dictatorship. Harris illustrates how control over information and media becomes an essential tool for dictators to manipulate public perception and suppress dissent. This aspect of the story invites readers to reflect on contemporary issues relating to censorship, fake news, and the media's influence on politics.

Resistance and Complicity

Harris does not paint the picture of dictatorship in stark black and white terms. Instead, he acknowledges the complexity of human behavior under authoritarian rule. The novel portrays various characters who either resist the regime, comply out of fear, or navigate a precarious middle ground. This nuanced portrayal adds depth to the narrative, prompting readers to consider the difficult moral choices faced by individuals living under oppressive governments.

Robert Harris's Writing Style and Its Impact on the Dictator Novel

Robert Harris's distinctive writing style significantly enhances the appeal of his dictator novel. His prose is clear, precise, and charged with tension, making the political machinations and personal dramas come alive vividly.

Engaging Narrative Pace

Harris expertly balances detailed exposition with fast-paced scenes, ensuring that readers remain hooked from start to finish. The ebb and flow of suspense and revelation mimic the unpredictable nature of political life, offering a reading experience that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally gripping.

Characterization and Dialogue

The characters in Harris's dictator novel are complex and multi-dimensional. Through sharp, realistic dialogue and introspective moments, he reveals the inner conflicts and motivations driving each individual. This character-driven approach helps humanize the often abstract concept of dictatorship, making it relatable and impactful.

Why Readers Should Dive Into Robert Harris's Dictator Novel

For those interested in history, politics, or psychological thrillers, Robert Harris's dictator novel offers a treasure trove of insights and entertainment. It serves not only as a compelling story but also as a lens through which to examine the nature of power and its consequences.

Insightful Look into Authoritarianism

Readers gain a deeper understanding of how dictatorships function, the mechanisms they employ to maintain power, and the societal costs incurred. This knowledge is invaluable, especially in a world where authoritarian tendencies continue to emerge in various forms.

Timeless Relevance

Though set in a specific historical or fictional context, the themes in Harris's novel resonate with contemporary political climates globally. Issues like media manipulation, populism, and the erosion of democratic norms find echoes in the story, making it a timely read.

Recommendations for Further Exploration

If you find yourself fascinated by Robert Harris's take on dictatorship, consider exploring related works that delve into similar themes:

- **"The Man in the High Castle" by Philip K. Dick:** An alternate history exploring totalitarianism.
- **"1984" by George Orwell:** The classic dystopian novel about surveillance and control.

- **Historical biographies of dictators:** For factual accounts of real-life authoritarian figures.

The Broader Impact of Robert Harris's Dictator Novel on Literature

Beyond its immediate storytelling appeal, the dictator novel by Robert Harris contributes meaningfully to the evolution of political fiction. By blending historical insight with dramatic flair, Harris revitalizes the genre and inspires critical discourse around leadership and governance.

Encouraging Critical Thinking

The novel challenges readers to question the nature of authority, the ethics of political leadership, and the fragility of democratic institutions. Such reflection is crucial in fostering informed and engaged citizenship.

Inspiring Writers and Readers Alike

Harris's success demonstrates the power of combining rigorous research with compelling narrative, encouraging other writers to explore complex political themes without sacrificing storytelling quality.

The world of dictatorship novels is rich and varied, and Robert Harris's contribution stands as a shining example of how fiction can illuminate the darkest corners of power with clarity and empathy. Whether you are a history buff, a political enthusiast, or simply a lover of well-crafted novels, diving into Harris's work promises a thought-provoking journey into the heart of authoritarian rule.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plot of 'Dictator' by Robert Harris?

'Dictator' is the final novel in Robert Harris's Cicero trilogy, depicting the life and political career of the Roman statesman Cicero, focusing on his efforts to preserve the Roman Republic amidst the rise of dictatorship under Julius Caesar.

Is 'Dictator' by Robert Harris a historical fiction novel?

Yes, 'Dictator' is a historical fiction novel that blends real historical events and figures with fictionalized dialogue and narrative to bring ancient Rome to life.

Do I need to read the previous books before 'Dictator' by Robert Harris?

While 'Dictator' can be read on its own, it is the third book in the Cicero trilogy, so reading the first two novels, 'Imperium' and 'Lustrum,' provides important background and enhances understanding of the characters and story.

How accurate is Robert Harris's portrayal of Cicero in 'Dictator'?

Robert Harris is known for his meticulous research, and 'Dictator' portrays Cicero with historical accuracy in terms of events and character, while adding narrative elements for dramatic effect.

What themes are explored in 'Dictator' by Robert Harris?

The novel explores themes such as the struggle for power, the decline of democracy, loyalty and betrayal, and the moral complexities faced by political leaders in turbulent times.

Additional Resources

Dictator Novel Robert Harris: An In-Depth Exploration of Power, History, and Fiction

dictator novel robert harris presents a compelling intersection of historical fact and gripping narrative artistry. Robert Harris, renowned for his meticulous research and masterful storytelling, delves into the life and psyche of one of history's most infamous figures in his novel *Dictator*. This work stands as the final installment of Harris's acclaimed Cicero trilogy, offering readers a profound exploration of political power, ambition, and the turbulent era of the late Roman Republic.

Contextualizing Robert Harris's Dictator Novel

Robert Harris has established himself as a prominent voice in historical fiction, with a particular focus on ancient Rome. His *Dictator* novel serves

as both a continuation and a culmination of the narrative begun in **Imperium** and **Lustrum**. Through the perspective of Marcus Tullius Cicero, a statesman and orator caught in the maelstrom of Julius Caesar's rise and fall, Harris dissects the nuances of dictatorship and republicanism.

The **Dictator** novel Robert Harris crafts is not merely a retelling of historical events; it is an analytical exploration of power dynamics and political intrigue. Harris's meticulous approach to historical accuracy is complemented by his ability to humanize towering figures of antiquity, making them accessible and relatable to contemporary readers. The novel's detailed depiction of the political machinations and personal conflicts during Caesar's dictatorship reflects Harris's commitment to blending fact with compelling fiction.

Historical Accuracy and Narrative Style

One of the defining features of the **dictator novel Robert Harris** delivers is its rigorous adherence to historical detail. Harris's extensive research is evident in his vivid portrayal of Rome's political landscape, from the Senate's debates to the complexities of Caesar's policies and military campaigns. The novel reconstructs key moments such as Caesar's civil war, his appointment as dictator for life, and the eventual conspiracy leading to his assassination.

Harris employs a third-person limited narrative, primarily through Cicero's viewpoint, which adds a layer of subjective interpretation to historical facts. This narrative choice allows readers to experience the tension, uncertainty, and moral ambiguity that characterized the era. The prose balances clarity and sophistication, making the novel accessible to both history enthusiasts and general fiction readers.

Themes and Motifs in Dictator

The **dictator novel Robert Harris** presents is rich in themes that resonate beyond its historical setting. Central among these is the tension between autocracy and republican ideals. Through Cicero's voice, Harris examines the fragility of democratic institutions when confronted with concentrated power. The novel probes the ethical dilemmas faced by individuals caught between loyalty to the state and personal survival.

Power and ambition are explored not only through Julius Caesar but also through secondary characters who embody different facets of Roman society. Themes of betrayal, loyalty, and the consequences of political compromise pervade the narrative, underscoring the timeless nature of such struggles.

Comparative Analysis: Dictator Versus Other Historical Novels

When positioned alongside other historical novels about ancient Rome, Robert Harris's *Dictator* stands out for its blend of political intrigue and character depth. Unlike works that romanticize or mythologize historical figures, Harris opts for a nuanced portrayal that highlights their complexity and flaws.

Comparison with Robert Graves's *I, Claudius*

While *I, Claudius* by Robert Graves is often hailed as a quintessential Roman historical novel, *Dictator* offers a contrasting approach. Graves's narrative is a first-person memoir that delves into the imperial family's inner workings, focusing on drama and personal relationships. Harris's work, on the other hand, adopts a broader political lens, emphasizing the institutional and ideological battles shaping Rome's future.

Comparison with Colleen McCullough's *Masters of Rome* Series

Colleen McCullough's *Masters of Rome* series provides an expansive chronicle of the Roman Republic's final century. Harris's *Dictator* complements this by zeroing in on a pivotal figure and moment—the dictatorship of Julius Caesar. Harris's concise, tightly woven narrative contrasts with McCullough's detailed, sprawling saga, making *Dictator* a more focused and fast-paced read.

Strengths and Criticisms of Robert Harris's *Dictator* Novel

The *dictator* novel Robert Harris* offers has garnered praise for its vivid storytelling and historical insight. Critics often highlight Harris's ability to humanize historical figures, creating empathy and understanding without sacrificing authenticity.

- **Strengths:**

- Meticulous historical research ensuring factual accuracy.
- Engaging narrative that brings ancient Rome to life.

- Complex character development, especially of Cicero and Caesar.
- Insightful exploration of political themes relevant to modern readers.

• **Criticisms:**

- Some readers may find the political exposition dense or challenging.
- The focus on Cicero's perspective can limit the portrayal of other viewpoints.
- Occasional pacing issues, with slower sections dedicated to political maneuvering.

Impact on Readers and Historical Fiction Genre

Dictator has contributed significantly to the popularity of historical fiction centered on ancient Rome. Its success reflects a broader interest in political thrillers that draw parallels between past and present governance challenges. For readers seeking a narrative that combines rigorous scholarship with dramatic storytelling, Harris's novel is a compelling choice.

The novel's influence extends to academic and literary discussions, where it is often cited as a prime example of how historical fiction can illuminate complex political epochs without resorting to oversimplification or sensationalism.

Final Reflections on the Dictator Novel Robert Harris Presents

Robert Harris's *Dictator* stands as a formidable work within the historical fiction genre, adeptly balancing the demands of accuracy and narrative engagement. By focusing on the final years of Julius Caesar's life through Cicero's eyes, Harris invites readers to reflect on the perennial struggles between authority and liberty, ambition and principle.

The novel's detailed depiction of the late Roman Republic offers valuable insights into the mechanics of power and the human dimensions behind

historical events. For those intrigued by political history, ancient Rome, or the art of storytelling grounded in fact, **Dictator** is an essential read that enriches understanding while captivating the imagination.

Dictator Novel Robert Harris

dictator novel robert harris: Dictator Robert Harris, 2016-01-12 The long-awaited final volume of the Cicero Trilogy, from a beloved bestselling author “incapable of writing an unenjoyable book” (The Wall Street Journal). At the age of forty-eight, Cicero—the greatest orator of his time—is in exile, his power sacrificed on the altar of his principles. The only way to return to Rome is to pledge his support to a charismatic and dangerous enemy: Julius Caesar. Harnessing his political cunning, unrivalled intellect, and the sheer brilliance of his words, Cicero fights his way back to prominence. Yet no public figure is completely safeguarded against the unscrupulous ambition of others. Riveting and tumultuous, *Dictator* encompasses the most epic events in ancient history, including the collapse of the Roman Republic, the murder of Pompey, and the assassination of Caesar. But its central question is a timeless one: how to keep political freedom unsullied by personal gain, vested interests, and the corrosive effects of ceaseless foreign wars. In Robert Harris’s indelible portrait, Cicero is a deeply fascinating hero for his own time and for ours.

dictator novel robert harris: Dictator Robert Harris, 2015-10-08 ***OUT NOW, PRECIPICE, THE THRILLING NEW NOVEL FROM ROBERT HARRIS*** 'Confirms Harris's undisputed place as our leading master of both the historical and contemporary thriller' Daily Mail 'Climatic in every sense . . . I could not put it down' Guardian There was a time when Cicero held Caesar's life in the palm of his hand. But now Caesar is the dominant figure and Cicero's life is in ruins. Cicero's comeback requires wit, skill and courage. And for a brief and glorious period, the legendary orator is once more the supreme senator in Rome. But politics is never static. And no statesman, however cunning, can safeguard against the ambition and corruption of others. 'The finest fictional treatment of Ancient Rome in the English language' The Scotsman

dictator novel robert harris: Imperium Robert Harris, 2006-09-19 From the bestselling author of *Fatherland* and *Pompeii*, comes the first novel of a trilogy about the struggle for power in ancient Rome. In his “most accomplished work to date” (Los Angeles Times), master of historical fiction Robert Harris lures readers back in time to the compelling life of Roman Senator Marcus Cicero. The re-creation of a vanished biography written by his household slave and righthand man, Tiro, *Imperium* follows Cicero’s extraordinary struggle to attain supreme power in Rome. On a cold November morning, Tiro opens the door to find a terrified, bedraggled stranger begging for help. Once a Sicilian aristocrat, the man was robbed by the corrupt Roman governor, Verres, who is now trying to convict him under false pretenses and sentence him to a violent death. The man claims that only the great senator Marcus Cicero, one of Rome’s most ambitious lawyers and spellbinding orators, can bring him justice in a crooked society manipulated by the villainous governor. But for Cicero, it is a chance to prove himself worthy of absolute power. What follows is one of the most gripping courtroom dramas in history, and the beginning of a quest for political glory by a man who fought his way to the top using only his voice—defeating the most daunting figures in Roman history.

dictator novel robert harris: The Cicero Trilogy Robert Harris, 2016-10-06 This epic trilogy by Robert Harris includes his bestselling novels: *Imperium*, *Lustrum* and *Dictator* *Imperium* - Compellingly written in Tiro's voice, *Imperium* takes us inside the violent, treacherous world of Roman politics, to describe how one man - clever, compassionate, devious, vulnerable - fought to reach the top. *Lustrum* - From the discovery of a child's mutilated body, through judicial execution and a scandalous trial, to the brutal unleashing of the Roman mob, *Lustrum* is a study in the timeless enticements and horrors of power. *Dictator* - Riveting and tumultuous, *Dictator* encompasses some

of the most epic events in human history yet is also an intimate portrait of a brilliant, flawed, frequently fearful yet ultimately brave man – a hero for his time and for ours. This is an unforgettable collection from a master storyteller.

dictator novel robert harris: *Conspirata* Robert Harris, 2010-04-03 *Conspirata* is “a portrait of ancient politics as a blood sport,” raves The New York Times. As he did with *Imperium*, Robert Harris again turns Roman history into a gripping thriller as Cicero faces a new power struggle in a world filled with treachery, violence, and vengeance. On the eve of Cicero’s inauguration as consul of Rome, a grisly discovery sends fear rippling through a city already racked by unrest. A young slave boy has been felled by a hammer, his throat slit and his organs removed, apparently as a human sacrifice. For Cicero, the ill omens of this hideous murder only increase his dangerous situation: elected leader by the people but despised by the heads of the two rival political camps. Caught in a shell game that leaves him forever putting out fires only to have them ignite elsewhere, Cicero plays for the future of the republic...and his life. There is a plot to assassinate him, abetted by a rising young star of the Roman senate named Gaius Julius Caesar—and it will take all the embattled consul’s wit, strength, and force of will to stop the plot and keep Rome from becoming a dictatorship.

dictator novel robert harris: *Dictator* Robert Harris, 2015-11-05 “Laws are silent in times of war.” Cicero There was a time when Cicero held Caesar’s life in the palm of his hand. But now Caesar is the dominant figure and Cicero’s life is in ruins. Exiled, separated from his wife and children, his possessions confiscated, his life constantly in danger, Cicero is tormented by the knowledge that he has sacrificed power for the sake of his principles. His comeback requires wit, skill and courage – and for a brief and glorious period, the legendary orator is once more the supreme senator in Rome. But politics is never static and no statesman, however cunning, can safeguard against the ambition and corruption of others. Riveting and tumultuous, *DICTATOR* encompasses some of the most epic events in human history yet is also an intimate portrait of a brilliant, flawed, frequently fearful yet ultimately brave man – a hero for his time and for ours. This is an unforgettable tour de force from a master storyteller.

dictator novel robert harris: *Act of Oblivion* Robert Harris, 2023-06-08 1660. Colonel Edward Whalley and his son-in-law, Colonel William Goffe, cross the Atlantic. Having been found guilty of high treason for the murder of Charles the I, they are wanted and on the run. A reward hangs over their heads - for their capture, dead or alive. In London, Richard Nayler, secretary of the regicide committee of the Privy Council, is tasked with tracking down the fugitives. He'll stop at nothing until the two men are brought to justice. *Act of Oblivion* is an epic journey across continents, and a chase like no other.[Bokinfo].

dictator novel robert harris: *Lustrum* Robert Harris, 2010-09-07 ***OUT NOW, PRECIPICE, THE THRILLING NEW NOVEL FROM ROBERT HARRIS*** 'A pure thriller . . . wry, clever, thoughtful, with a terrific sense of timing and eye for character' Observer 'No one delivers thrilling yet timeless games of power, sex, fame and Rome like Robert Harris' Sunday Telegraph Rome, 63 BC. Seven men are struggling for power: Cicero the consul, Caesar his ruthless rival, Pompey the republic's greatest general, Crassus its richest man, Cato a political fanatic, Catilina a psychopath and Clodius an ambitious playboy. These real historical figures - their alliances and betrayals, their cruelties and seductions - are all interleaved in *Lustrum*, through its narrator Tiro, a confidential secretary to Cicero. He knows all his master's secrets - a dangerous position to be in. 'Thoroughly engaging . . . The allure of power and the perils that attend it have seldom been so brilliantly anatomised in a thriller' Sunday Times

dictator novel robert harris: *Conclave* Robert Harris, 2024-08-06 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE DIRECTED BY EDWARD BERGER AND STARRING RALPH FIENNES, STANLEY TUCCI, JOHN LITHGOW, AND ISABELLA ROSSELLINI • NOMINATED FOR AN ACADEMY AWARD® FOR BEST PICTURE • The page-turning thriller set in the Vatican's secretive halls of power by the bestselling author of *Enigma* and *Fatherland* Pulsates with intrigue. . . . Ambition, sex scandals, financial corruption and terrorism all rear their ugly heads. And Harris saves one whopper of a

surprise for the final pages. —USA Today The Pope is dead. Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, one hundred and twenty Cardinals from all over the globe will cast their votes in the world's most secretive election. They are holy men. But they have ambition. And they have rivals. Over the next seventy-two hours one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on earth.

dictator novel robert harris: The Ghost Robert Harris, 2007-10-23 From the bestselling author of *Fatherland* and *Imperium* comes *The Ghost Writer*, an extraordinarily auspicious thriller of power, politics, corruption, and murder—now a major motion picture starring Ewan McGregor and Pierce Brosnan. The role of a ghostwriter is to make his client look good, not to uncover the truth. But what happens when the client is a major political figure, and the truth could change the course of history? Adam Lang, the controversial former prime minister of Britain, is writing his memoirs. But his first ghostwriter dies under shocking circumstances, and his replacement—whose experience lies in portraying aging rock stars and film idols—knows little about Lang's inner circle. Flown to join Lang in a secure house on the remote shores of Martha's Vineyard in the depths of winter, cut off from everyone and everything he knows, he comes to realize he should never have taken the job. It's not just his predecessor's mysterious death that haunts him, but Adam Lang himself. Deep in Lang's past are buried shocking secrets. Secrets with the power to alter world politics. Secrets with the power to kill.

dictator novel robert harris: Munich (Movie Tie-in) Robert Harris, 2022-01-11 The tie-in edition of the Netflix film starring Jeremy Irons as Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain—a spy thriller about treason and conscience, loyalty and betrayal, set against the backdrop of the Munich Conference of September 1938. Hugh Legat is a rising star of the British diplomatic service, serving at 10 Downing Street as a private secretary to the prime minister, Neville Chamberlain. Paul von Hartmann is on the staff of the German Foreign Office—and secretly a member of the anti-Hitler resistance. Years before, the two men were friends at Oxford. Now war is on the horizon and Chamberlain is desperately trying to maintain the peace. When Hugh is given a set of top secret German documents from an anonymous source, it is clear Hartmann is trying to get back in touch. As a result, Hugh is ordered to accompany Chamberlain to Munich. Meanwhile, Hartmann travels on Hitler's overnight train from Berlin. Their meeting in Munich will change the course of the world affairs in ways that reverberate for years to come. Once again, Robert Harris gives us actual events of historical importance—here are Hitler, Chamberlain, Mussolini, Daladier—at the heart of an electrifying, unputdownable novel.

dictator novel robert harris: Cicero Pro Roscio Amerino: A Selection Neil Treble, 2025-03-20 This is the OCR-endorsed edition covering the Latin AS and A-Level (Group 1) prescription for examinations in 2026–28 of Cicero's *pro Roscio Amerino* 5 (*forsitan quaeratis...*)-29 (*... iugulandum vobis tradiderunt*), and the A-Level (Group 2) prescription for examinations in 2027–28 of 29 (*quid primum ...*)-32 (*iuguletis aut condemnetis*) and 37 (*occidisse patrem ...*)-57 (*... accusare possitis*), giving full Latin text, commentary and vocabulary, with a detailed introduction that also covers the prescribed material to be read in English for A Level. In 81 BC Sextus Roscius, a wealthy landowner, was killed returning from a dinner party in Rome. His son, Sextus Roscius the Younger, was charged the following year with parricide, a sacrilegious crime with a gruesome punishment. In Cicero's first speech at a criminal trial, he shows how his client did not benefit from the death, uncovers corruption which implicates an individual at the highest level of politics, and argues that the courts are being abused to silence the victims. *Pro Sex. Roscio Amerino* is a speech not only defending a man's life, but the very fabric of Roman justice. Supporting resources are available on the Companion Website: <https://bloomsbury.pub/OCR-editions-2026-2028>.

dictator novel robert harris: Why Cicero Matters Vittorio Bufacchi, 2023-10-19 *Why Cicero Matters* shows us how the Roman philosopher and statesman Marcus Tullius, better known as Cicero, can help realize a new political world. His impact on humanitarianism, the Enlightenment and the Founding Fathers of America is immense. Yet we give Julius Caesar all our attention. Why? What does this say about modern politics and political culture? This book gives us Cicero as an antidote to the myth of the strong man of history. Reading Cicero's *On Duties* alongside two more

introspective philosophical texts, *On Friendship* and *On Old Age*, we see how Cicero turned politics into a higher, intellectual form of art, believing in education, in culture and above all in the power of philosophy to instil morality. Cicero has reassuring words on the indispensable work philosophers make, and why the common good needs philosophy. In an age when anti-intellectualism runs rampant, *Why Cicero Matters* introduces us to an ancient thinker who argues culture is, or ought to be, the foundation of any modern democracy, and books its building blocks.

dictator novel robert harris: *The War for Gaul* Julius Caesar, 2021-07-13 Imagine a book about an unnecessary war written by the ruthless general of an occupying army - a vivid and dramatic propaganda piece that forces the reader to identify with the conquerors and that is designed, like the war itself, to fuel the limitless political ambitions of the author. Could such a campaign autobiography ever be a great work of literature - perhaps even one of the greatest? It would be easy to think not, but such a book exists -and it helped transform Julius Caesar from a politician on the make into the Caesar of legend. This remarkable new translation of Caesar's famous but underappreciated *War for Gaul* captures, like never before in English, the gripping and powerfully concise style of the future emperor's dispatches from the front lines in what are today France, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland. While letting Caesar tell his battle stories in his own way, distinguished classicist James O'Donnell also fills in the rest of the story in a substantial introduction and notes that together explain why *Gaul* is the best bad man's book ever written--A great book in which a genuinely bad person offers a bald-faced, amoral description of just how bad he has been. Complete with a chronology, a map of Gaul, suggestions for further reading, and an index, this feature-rich edition captures the forceful austerity of a troubling yet magnificent classic - a book that, as O'Donnell says, 'gets war exactly right and morals exactly wrong.' -- Front jacket flap

dictator novel robert harris: *The Second Sleep* Robert Harris, 2019-11-19 From the internationally best-selling author of *Fatherland* and the *Cicero Trilogy*--a chilling and dark new thriller unlike anything Robert Harris has done before. 1468. A young priest, Christopher Fairfax, arrives in a remote Exmoor village to conduct the funeral of his predecessor. The land around is strewn with ancient artefacts--coins, fragments of glass, human bones--which the old parson used to collect. Did his obsession with the past lead to his death? Fairfax becomes determined to discover the truth. Over the course of the next six days, everything he believes--about himself, his faith, and the history of his world--will be tested to destruction.

dictator novel robert harris: *Reviving Cicero in Drama* Gesine Manuwald, 2018-10-30 The influence of Cicero is everywhere to be found. His rhetorical and philosophical writings have made an inescapable impact on the history of western culture, impressing figures such as Augustine, Jerome, Petrarch, Erasmus, Martin Luther, John Locke, David Hume, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Despite his wide appeal, until now no study has yet offered a comprehensive overview of 'Cicero' as a character in stage plays in the early modern and modern periods. The first book of its kind to discuss Cicero's reception on stage, it includes works by Ben Jonson (1611, *Catiline His Conspiracy*), Voltaire (1752, *Rome sauvée, ou Catilina*), Richard Cumberland (1761, *The Banishment of Cicero*), Henry Bliss (1847, *Cicero, A drama*) and, most recently, Mike Poulton (*Imperium*, adapted from the novels of Robert Harris in 2017). Through a chapter-by-chapter account of each play in turn, every oeuvre is placed in its historical and cultural context; the plots are discussed in relation to the ancient sources. These analyses demonstrate how the presentation and assessment of the figure of Cicero develop over time and how this character is exploited for varying political statements. The wealth of material in this book is vital reading for scholars of Classics, drama and literary studies as well as historians of ideas and of the early modern age.

dictator novel robert harris: *Temerity & Gall* John Metcalf, 2022-05-31 "[Metcalf's] talent is generous, hectoring, huge, and remarkable."—Washington Post In *Temerity & Gall*, Metcalf looks back on a lifetime spent in letters; surveys, with no punches pulled, the current state of CanLit; and offers a passionate defense of the promise and potential of Canadian writing. In a 1983 editorial letter to the *Globe and Mail*, celebrated Canadian novelist W.P. Kinsella railed that "Mr. Metcalf—an immigrant—continually and in the most galling manner has the temerity to preach to Canadians

about their own literature." Forty years later, in spite of Kinsella's effort to discredit him in the name of a misguided nationalism both embarrassing and familiar, John Metcalf still has the temerity and gall to preach, to teach, and to write passionately (and uproariously) about literature in Canada. Part memoir, meditation, and apologia, part criticism and pure Metcalf, the present volume distills a lifetime of reading and writing, thinking and collecting, and continues his necessary work kicking against the ever-present pricks. As is the case with all of his critical work, *Temerity & Gall* will challenge, delight, anger, and inspire in equal measure, and is essential reading for anyone interested in literature in Canada and its place within the wider tradition of writing in English. *Temerity & Gall* is printed in a limited paperback edition of 750 copies signed and numbered by the author.

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