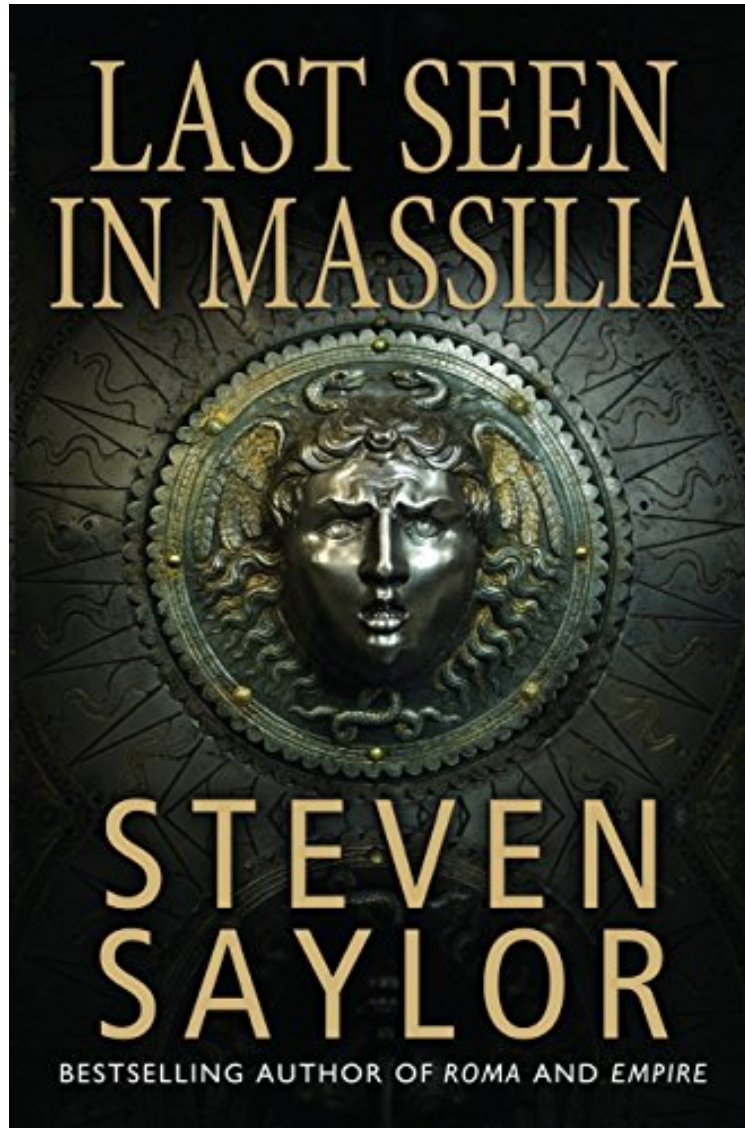


(Download free pdf) Last Seen in Massilia (Gordianus the Finder)

Last Seen in Massilia (Gordianus the Finder)

Von Steven Saylor

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Von Steven Saylor : Last Seen in Massilia (Gordianus the Finder) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Last Seen in Massilia (Gordianus the Finder):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent as usualVon Ein KundeThe last place any Julius Caesar supporter would want to visit in 49 BC is Massillia in Gaul. The residents seemingly support General Pompey in the civil war against Caesar. However, that is exactly the place Gordianus the Finder, accompanied by his son-in-law, needs to enter. Just because Caesar's troops led by

Trebonius have placed an airtight siege on the city for several months fails to deter Gordianus on his quest. He needs to learn what happened to his son Meto, a former lieutenant of Caesar, now condemned as a traitor and rumored dead. After working his way into the city, Gordianus becomes embroiled in an investigation. A woman was either murdered or committed suicide. Was she pushed or did she jump from Sacrifice Rock. His son-in-law believes a soldier shoved the woman off the rock. His "host" Hieronymus disagrees saying the man tried to stop the woman from leaping from "Suicide" Rock. In any case, Gordianus begins seeking the truth if he is to stay alive in a dangerous city with much intrigue and backstabbing.

LAST SEEN IN MASSILLIA, the eighth novel in the Sub Rosa Ancient Rome mysteries, is a great entry in a great series. The story line is loaded with twists and turns as everyone knows neutrality is deadly but the wrong side at the wrong time is just as perilous. Gordianus remains a strong, thoughtful character and the support cast provides profundity and an insightful feel to the period. However, Steven Saylor's tale belongs to Massilia (ancient Marseilles) as readers obtain an incredible perusal of the city at a critical moment in history.

Harriet Klausner
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. etwas enttäuschend
Von Bastler
Die Strke der Romane von Steven Saylor ist die Authentizitt. Sowohl bei seinen Detektivromanen ber Gordianus-den-Finder als auch bei seinen weiteren Bchern ber das antike Rom sttzt er sich sehr stark auf berlieferte Quellen wie z.B. die Prozessreden von Cicero oder das Geschichtswerk von Livius. Seine eigenen Geschichten strickt er dann um die in diesen Quellen enthaltenen Geschichten und Schicksale herum und erklrt oft ziemlich orginell, was im Orginal nur angedeutet oder ganz verschwiegen wurde. Bei diesem Roman jedoch, der im antiken Massilia spielt, war die Quellenlage wohl ziemlich drftig. Saylor versucht zwar wieder berlieferte Aspekte wie die religise Tradition des "Sndenbockes" einzuflechten, aber diese wenigen Motive passen nicht so richtig zu dem Abenteuer, das er seinen Helden erleben lsst. Die damals schon alte Handelsstadt Massilia wird an keiner Stelle richtig lebendig, man hat eher das Gefhl, dass der Detektiv in einer unbedeutenden Kleinstadt herumirrt. Gleiches gilt fr die Personen: Gaius Verres oder Milo im Exil wren eigentlich spannende Personen, aber sie bleiben grau und man erfhrt nicht viel neues ber sie. Die Handlung selbst erscheint ber weite Strecken unglaubwrdig und der Detektiv und sein Schwiegersohn berleben nur durch eine Kette von irrwitzigen Zufllen. Das ganze ist zwar immer noch ein spannender und actionreicher Historienroman, aber eben nicht ganz auf dem Niveau, das man von Saylor's Romanen, die in Rom spielen, gewhnt ist.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Still on a high level
Von Kein Name
After Gordianus received an anonymous message of his son Meto's death, he and his son-in-law Davus travel to Massilia- where Meto was last seen- to find out what happened to him. The snag is that Massilia is besieged by Caesar's troops and neither can anybody get into the city nor can anybody leave it. However, Gordianus and Davus achieve the impossible and as soon as they have entered the city they are in the utmost danger because they are thought to be Caesar's spies. At the last moment Hieronymus, the scapegoat of the city who is supposed to take on all its sins, saves them and accommodates them in his house. After Gordianus is assured of Meto's death by the Roman exile Milo, he grieves for days until he witnesses from the roof terrace of Hieronymus' house the fight of a man and a young woman on the notorious scapegoat rock. After a few moments the woman falls down. Was it murder? Has the man pushed her or has he rather tried to prevent her from jumping? The next day a desperate father whose daughter has disappeared arrives at Hieronymus' house and asks Gordianus to solve the mystery of her disappearance. Gordianus being glad to get some distraction from his son's death accepts the task but soon he realizes that it is one thing to investigate in Rome, a city in which he has spend all his life, and in Massilia where his only friend is the despised scapegoat Hieronymus. "Last seen is Massilia" might not be as brilliant as most of Saylor's previous works, but is still well worth reading. The author builds up tension from the first page and maintains it until the very last. The descriptions of the besieged city, the techniques of its beleaguerers and the atmosphere of exasperation and panic are convincingly depicted and- as in most of his books- the plot is full of unexpected twists and turns. The way Gordianus and Davus make it into the besieged city might be slightly dubious and- as Saylor admits in his author's notes- the description of the administration as well as some details of the city itself are based on speculation due to the lack of sources, but these are the only points of criticism. This book is not only a must- read for Saylor fans but for everyone that relishes whodunits set in the ancient world.

KurzbeschreibungAs civil war between Caesar and Pompey engulfs the Roman world, Gordianus the Finder receives an anonymous message informing him of the death of his son Meto who has been acting as a double agent for Caesar. The search for Meto's fate brings Gordianus to the besieged seaport of Massilia, which is stubbornly holding out against Caesar's troops. As famine and slaughter threaten the blockaded city, Gordianus is drawn into the intrigues of exiled Romans and duplicitous Massilians. His only friend in the city, Hieronymus, has been made the doomed scapegoat elected by city officials to bear the sins of the populace and save them all from annihilation. Meanwhile, Gordianus is constantly frustrated in his efforts to find out what happened to his son - and when he witnesses the fall of a young woman from a precipice outside the city called the Sacrifice Rock, then the plot begins to thicken....deThere are those who say that Steven Saylor's stunningly atmospheric novels featuring an ancient Roman

sleuth are the last word in this particular genre. But there are also those who say that Lindsey Davis's Falco (in her own series of Roman mysteries) is every inch the equal of Saylor's Gordianus the Finder. Actually, it doesn't matter a damn who does this kind of thing best: both writers are such masters of their craft, that readers should be grateful two such adroit practitioners are working at the height of their powers. The latest in Saylor's Roma sub Rosa series, *Last Seen in Massilia*, is probably his most compelling yet, and his wry hero's first-person narration again pulls off the brilliant sleight-of-hand of transplanting a modern sensibility into a denizen of the ancient world, while always avoiding anachronism. As a guide through the bloody back alleys of Rome and the decadent splendours of its Senatorial palaces, Gordianus is non-pareil: the perfect cynical survivor. The Roman world is torn apart by a civil war, and Caesar and Pompey struggle for ascendancy. But life goes on pretty much as normal for Gordianus, who receives an anonymous message telling him that his son is dead. Meto was playing the dangerous game of acting as a double agent for Caesar, and as Gordianus tries to find who is behind the murder, he finds himself in the blockaded seaport of Massilia, with famine and bloodshed an ever-present threat. And as he pursues what seems an impossible quest, Gordianus' only friend in the city has been chosen by the corrupt officials to die for the sins of a populace and stave off catastrophe. And then there is the young woman Gordianus has seen fall from the Sacrifice Rock outside the city. Saylor's plotting remains as deliriously convoluted as ever, while his grasp of historical detail never falters. The reader, while transfixed by the narrative, is continually aware of the sights and smells of the eternal city when it was the centre of the civilised world. One reads each new Gordianus novel thinking, "Is this the one in which Saylor loses that golden touch?" But so far, it hasn't happened--the burnish the author gives his work still dazzles. --Barry Forshaw.co.uk

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