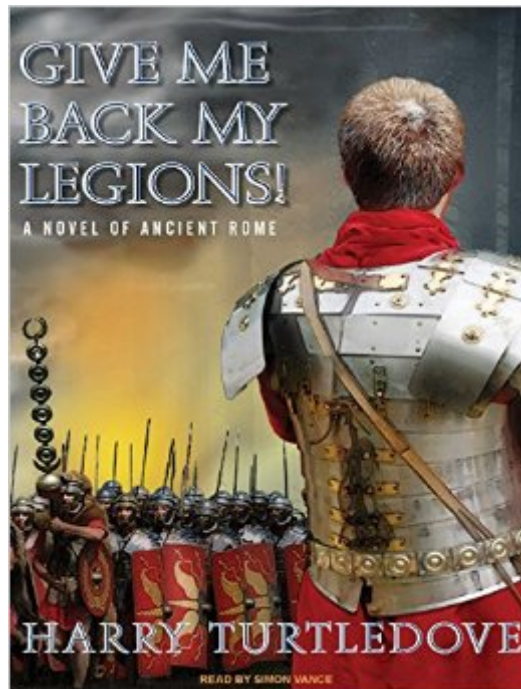


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Give Me Back My Legions!: A Novel Of Ancient Rome



Synopsis

Publius Quinctilius Varus, a Roman politician, is summoned by the Emperor, Augustus Caesar. Given three legions and sent to the Roman frontier east of the Rhine, his mission is to subdue the barbarous German tribes where others have failed and to bring their land fully under Rome's control. Arminius, a prince of the Cherusci, is playing a deadly game. He serves in the Roman army, gaining Roman citizenship and an officer's rank, and learning the arts of war and policy as practiced by the Romans. What he learns is essential for the survival of Germany, for he must unite his people against Rome before they become enslaved by the Empire and lose their way of life forever. An epic battle is brewing, and these two men stand on opposite sides of what will forever be known as the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest—a ferocious, bloody clash that will change the course of history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Harry Turtledove takes a fictitious look at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest in "Give Me Back My Legions!" In this horrific battle, German barbarians under Arminius, a prince of the Cherusci tribe, wiped out three Roman legions, led by the Quinctilius Varus, the governor of Germany. Primary sources of the battle are sparse, giving Turtledove great leeway in developing his characters' motivations and personalities. Unfortunately, he fails to do this: with the exception of just Varus and Arminius, all his characters are flat and thin, and there's little to either Varus and Arminius, as well. Varus, pampered and arrogant, and softened by his successful administration of the wealthy and long-pacified province of Syria, is sent by Augustus Caesar to bring Germany into the Roman

fold. Of course, it's a tough job, but nothing an aging plutocrat and his Greek slave can't handle. He quickly discovers Germany's not quite as civilized as he's been led to believe, so he sets out to win over the locals with tax collectors and an increased military presence. Enter Arminius. He's a Roman citizen and an officer-auxillary in their army, but he hates Rome, because, well, because he hates Rome, leave it at that. He starts the story with someone woman-problems, but a Roman perfect didn't ravish his woman, she was instead pledged to another man, a German. Then there's the issue of slavery: Rome wants to "enslave" Germany, but since his people has slaves, he doesn't have an issue with slavery, as long as he's not a slave. So he rallies his countrymen, such as they are, to resist the Romans. Long story made short, Arminius finds his perfect location for an ambush, and leads the dimwitted Varus straight into it.

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