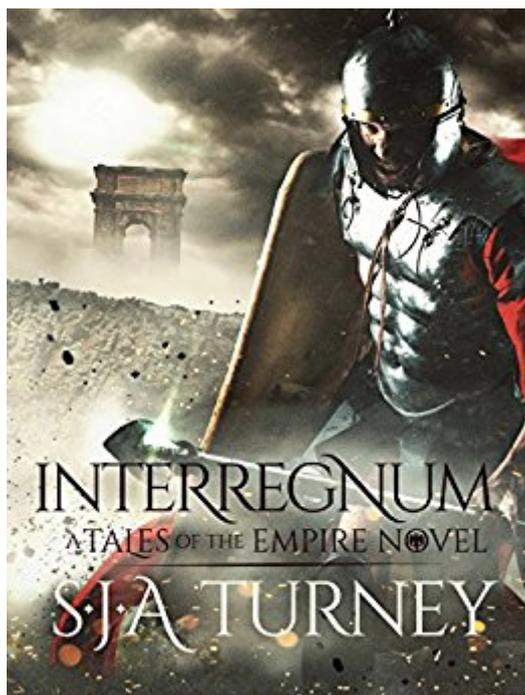


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Interregnum (Tales Of The Empire Book 1)



Synopsis

The Empire has fallen. The Empire must rise. A historical fantasy of valour, honour, and determination against all odds. For twenty years civil war has torn the Empire apart; the Imperial line extinguished after the mad Emperor Quintus was burned in his palace, betrayed by his greatest general and oldest friend, Kiva Caerdin. Against a background of war, decay and violence, men who once served in the proud Imperial army now fight as hands for hire, little but fodder for greedy lords fighting over the remnants of more glorious times. Kiva's memories of the Empire are reignited when fighting alongside a fearsome mercenary unit, the Grey Company. Forced to face a dark and shameful past, he struggles to put his life back together. To achieve redemption, he and his men must defeat an ancient, cunning and bitter rival. Only then can the Empire be unified and become reborn. Set in a hugely imaginative and atmospheric world inspired by Roman history, *Interregnum* is the first novel in S.J.A. Turney's epic *Tales of the Empire* series, and is perfect for readers of Conn Iggulden, Bernard Cornwell and Simon Scarrow. This new edition of *Interregnum* has been revised and professionally proofread by S.J.A. Turney's publisher.

Book Information

File Size: 982 KB

Print Length: 534 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1497470153

Publisher: Canelo (July 4, 2016)

Publication Date: July 4, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01HRUBM16

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #23,188 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman #15 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman #182 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Historical

Customer Reviews

Interregnum by SJA Turney Mr. Turney enters tentatively into the realm of Fantasy Genre with this novel and series. It is not History but a created world of fiction, Fantasy without wizards, demonic beasties or elves. Thank Goodness, I am tired of Fantastic creatures floating in and out of imaginary world toying with the machinations of man. What we get is intrigue the struggle of Good, Evil and Sanity and Madness. Great honor and deceit battle for control of the world. It is a stronger story line in many ways because it is based on truths in the hearts of man. The characters are solid and well constructed. They are the kind that would stand in a historic novel but this is not a historic world. It is a series I wish to explore more and look forward to "Ironroot" the second novel in this series. Turney shows us the real monsters are deep within us.

An enjoyable story, well written and engaging. The author developed a very compelling tale with enough similarity to the later Roman Empire that a reader with a historical bent will find familiar. The characters were well developed and their motivations very relatable. The main antagonist was well developed and more than a one note villain. A good book, I'll be ordering more by the author.

The author says that this is not an historical Roman legion novel but pure fiction. Indeed, that is correct but it reads much like his true historical novels such as "Marius Mules" of that time period. Pure fiction just gives him the license to allow what would be anachronisms to appear - spyglasses, stirrups on saddles, crossbows, etc. and to make up characters and cities out of whole cloth. Nevertheless, one certainly gets the feeling that one is reading about the Roman Empire and the legions. As for the story, the Empire is in ruins following the death of the last Emperor twenty years previously, leaving no heirs. The last great general of the Imperial army, Kiva, is reduced to leading a mercenary band of twelve of his finest soldiers. They will fight for any lord who wishes to expand on his lands and various vassal states in the former empire. After one battle they find a remarkable young man who is a direct bloodline to the throne. The astute reader can now assume to know how the plot will develop, but may very well be wrong. To say that the author introduces various twists in the plot would be an understatement. Rather, the reader occasionally gets a dash of cold water in the face, metaphorically speaking. This all makes for a very engrossing book.

Turney is a great author. After one, you'll be hooked. As a fan of Roman fiction novels, I have truly enjoyed these. One series follows Caesar through Gaul, the other is a more "what if" series based in a Roman world, but not following historical events. Kind of Roman influenced novels. Regardless,

awesome!

Having read the author's more recent works, the Marius Mules series and the first in the Ottoman Cycle series, I was curious as to how his earlier works would compare. Interregnum is the first of a fantasy-history trilogy set in a fictitious time period reminiscent of the Late Roman Empire/early medieval eras. The story revolves around the crumbling of an empire and the attempt 20 years after the death of the last Emperor to restore it. Naturally there are rivals and factions and that is what feeds the main plot in this tale. The characters are complex, the action is scintillating, the sub-plots are full of surprises. While reading this book I came to the realization of why I like Mr. Turney's later efforts in Marius Mules 1-5 and A Thief's Tale. He has a way of evoking strong emotions from his readers, some even from a stoical, unemotional and cynical soul like myself. Internal turmoil redeemed in the end. That's the stuff I like in a book and this one fit the bill. Suffice to say I will be reading the rest of this well written trilogy. I give this a 4.5. A note on Hoover Book Reviews new rating policy: In order to have a little more leeway in rating a book we at Hoover Book Reviews are adopting the following policy. The system will still be based on 1-5 stars but with tenth of a point intervals, so a book that we in the past have rated 5 stars can now be more accurately fixed at say 4.5 or 4.2...etc etc. Of course this will only be reflected in the review itself as I cannot change's restrictive, whole numbers only method.

This is the first novel of a trilogy. It is pure fiction and it involves an Empire that collapses after 20 years of civil war. Readers in Roman history will find similarities between the Roman Empire and this fictional one but, don't expect it to go any further. S.J.A. Turney writes well. The novel is enjoyable and it has all the hallmarks that make it a good read; betrayal, greed, intrigue, great character development and lots of action underpinned by a very good storyline. The ingredient of hope is also present and importantly it plays a bigger part in the author's next novel 'Ironroot'. For readers interested in novels based on the Roman Empire and true historical occurrences then I would recommend you read Turney's trilogy 'Marius' Mules' or his novella 'Tales of Ancient Rome'. You will not be disappointed.

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