



LXXXII (82)

# CAESARS



BY  
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featured in this book are entirely fictitious, actually,  
that's not true. Everything in this book is  
factually historical, or anyway it's all MEANT to  
be factually historical, what do I know? I wasn't  
there. I've just read a few books. Most of the  
portraits, such as they are, at least somewhat  
resemble their subjects. It was hard to find  
references for some of these guys and those  
old Roman coins and statues aren't always in  
great shape. Lots of them are missing noses  
and chins, so give me a break, okay?

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**T**he men who ruled Rome, what a motley collection  
I'll list them all off if you have no objection...



**JULIUS CAESAR 50-44bc**



**Caesar, the tyrant, wreaked havoc in Gaul  
And later was stabbed by the senators all**



**AUGUSTUS** 27bc-14ad



AUGUSTUS used marble to make Rome look grand  
HE laid the foundation on which she would stand

**CALIGULA** 37-41ad



CALIGULA followed, his reign full of scandal  
His villainous actions were too much to handle

**TIBERIUS** 14-37ad



Tiberius Caesar was dark and morose  
HE spent his last days at Capri being Gross

**CLAUDIUS** 41-54ad



How very unlikely that Claudius would reign  
Folks largely assumed he was soft in the brain



Most PEOPLE know Nero, that fiddling fiend  
He caused lots of grief, suicide intervened

WHAT A GREAT  
ARTIST THE WORLD  
IS LOSING!



When Nero was finished, 'Sad, what a mess!  
Four men vied for power and caused much distress!



**GALBA 68-69AD**



First up was Galba, a hardened old miser  
Betrayed by supporters, he should have been wiser

**VITELLIUS 69AD**



Vitellius the Glutton, a wanton imbibor  
Defeated, dismembered, and thrown in the Tiber

**OTHO 69AD**



Next we have Otho, once Nero's Good friend  
He lasted three months till his violent end

**VESPASIAN 69-79AD**



Vespasian, the fourth guy, destroyed Judea  
A capable leader, killed by diarrhea

**TITUS 79-81AD**



Favored son Titus, he'd torn down the Temple  
Volcanoes, pandemics, his reign was not simple



**DOMITIAN 81-96AD**



Domitian insisted that he was divine  
His despotic nature led to his decline

**NERVA 96-98AD**



For two years there was Nerva, he put things at ease  
The soldiers disliked him but left him in peace

**TRAJAN 98-117AD**



Soldierly Trajan, saBacious and solemn  
HE twice conquered dacia and built a nice column



**HADRIAN 117-138AD**



Hadrian, bearded, his wall stands in Britain  
HE marched with the soldiers, by Greece he was smitten

**ANTONINUS PIUS 138-161AD**



Antoninus Pius stayed in Italy  
long reign, uneventful, he died peacefully



**LUCIUS VERUS 161-169AD**



Next up, Lucius Verus, Playboy sybarite  
He co-ruled with Marcus, a Plague snuffed his light

**MARCUS AURELIUS 161-180AD**



Marcus Aurelius, wrote Meditations  
The warrior poet of rapt lamentations

THE OBJECT OF LIFE IS NOT  
TO BE ON THE SIDE OF THE  
MAJORITY, BUT TO ESCAPE  
FINDING ONESELF IN  
THE RANKS OF THE  
INSANE



**COMMODUS 180-192 AD**



Lovish and boorish, a human bovine  
Commodus sent Rome down the path of decline

**PERTINAX 193 AD**



**DIDIUS JULIANUS 193 AD**



Didius Julianus showed up with some cash  
He bought him a crown and was thrown in the trash



**SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS 193-211AD**



Septimius Severus, North African caesar  
killed all who opposed him, was not an appeaser

**GETA 211AD**



**CARACALLA 211-217AD**



**MACRINUS 217-218AD**



Macrinus fought Persia but didn't quite win  
HE paid soldiers poorly and that was his end

**ELAGABALUS 218-222AD**



**SEVERUS ALEXANDER 222-235AD**



Severus Alexander, the last Severan  
was ruled by his mom and was killed by his men

At this point in the story things get quite confusing  
Who counts as a caesar depends on one's choosing...

**MAXIMINUS THRAX 235-238AD**



They called him Max Thrax, a supposed eight-foot freak  
Wore bracelets as thumb rings and trampled the meek

**GORDIAN I 238AD**



The Gordian men ruled as father and son  
Reigned twenty-one days then got killed and were done

**GORDIAN II 238AD**



**PUPIENUS 238<sup>AD</sup>**



The senate convened. Papienus was chosen  
co-ruled with Balbinus until their implosion

**BALBINUS 238<sup>AD</sup>**



**GORDIAN III 238-244<sup>AD</sup>**



Praetorian Guardsmen chose Gordian the Third  
But he was a boy and was checked and interred

**PHILIP THE ARAB 244-249<sup>AD</sup>**



Arabian Philip, overwhelmed and dismayed  
Proposed to resign but was tricked and betrayed

**DECIUS 249-251 AD**



Decius killed Philip, his edict killed Christians  
The Goths took his head and they killed his ambitions

**GALLUS 251-253 AD**



Gallus was never especially distinguished  
Aemilian ensured that his life was extinguished

**AEMILIANUS 253 AD**



Aemilian's rule didn't last very long  
After three months he's defeated and gone

**VALERIAN 253-260<sub>ab</sub>**



Valerian, captured, enslaved by the Persians  
His ending is gruesome in most of the versions



**GALLIENUS 253-268<sub>ab</sub>**



Gallienus' edict of tolerance helped Christians  
Defeating rebellions took all his attentions



**CLAUDIUS GOTHICUS 268-270<sub>AD</sub>**



**Claudius Gothicus, man of Great force  
It is said he once punched out the teeth of a horse**



**QUINTILLUS 270<sub>AD</sub>**



**Quintillus? The emperor? Who can remember?  
Crowned in the summer and dead by September**

**AURELIAN 270-275<sub>AD</sub>**



**Aurelian's walls kept Rome safe from attack  
But they didn't save him, he was stabbed in the back**

TACITUS 275-276<sub>AD</sub>



Emperor Tacitus (not the historian)  
Died of a fever and followed by Florian

FLORIAN 276<sub>AD</sub>



Florian can prob'ly be left off this list  
No one would notice, he'd hardly be missed

PROBUS 276-282<sub>AD</sub>



Probus' orders left soldiers unhappy  
HE used them for labor, they found the work crappy

CARUS 282-283<sub>AD</sub>



Carus won victories wherever he went  
A lightning bolt killed him inside of his tent

**NUMERIAN 283-284<sub>AD</sub>**



**NUMERIAN REIGNED AS A CORPSE. IT'S QUITE TRUE  
PROPPED UP IN A LITTER AND KEPT OUT OF VIEW**



**CARINUS 283-285<sub>AD</sub>**



**CARINUS WAS FOUL, HEDONISTIC, AND VAIN  
THEN CAME DIOCLETIAN WHO DEFT HIM IN TWAIN**

**DIOCLETIAN** 284-305<sub>AD</sub>



Diocletian brought forth his tetrarchic decision  
One empire in fourths was the crux of his vision

One emp'ror, one junior, would rule in the west  
The same for the East, it was all for the best

**WEST**



**MAXIMIAN**

**EAST**



**DIOCLETIAN**



**CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS**



**GALERIUS**

GALERIUS 305-311AD



Galerius co-ruled as Diocletian's Junior  
until he was killed by a cancerous tumor

MAXIMIAN 286-310AD



Out west was Maximian, he'd briefly retire  
Then fight his own son to control the empire



**CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS 305-306AD**



Constantius Chlorus, he's Constantine's father  
LEFT Christians alone, they were not worth the bother

**SEVERUS II 306-307AD**



**MAXIMINUS DAIA 310-313AD**



Max daia was a PaSan, and Christians were wary  
HE ignored tolerant edicts, things got rather scary

**MAXENTIUS 306-312AD**



LICINIUS 308-324 AD



Licinius, a soldier from Dacia, a peasant found Constantine's ways to be rather unpleasant



The conversion of Constantine pleased all the Christians  
His habit of murder defied their convictions



**CONSTANTINE II 337-340<sub>AD</sub>**



Constantine 2 went to murder Constans  
An ambush in Italy ended his plans

**CONSTANS 337-350<sub>AD</sub>**



Constans had his vices, the army disliked him  
Usurped by Magnentius who reached out to strike him

**CONSTANTIUS II 337-361<sub>AD</sub>**



Constantius the second became the sole sovereign  
HE was the most ruthless of all of his brethren

**JULIAN THE APOSTATE 360-363<sub>AD</sub>**



Julian the Apostate was raised as a Christian  
destroying the Church was his primary mission



**JOVIAN 363-364AD**



Jovian reigned briefly in three sixty-three  
Burned down a library in ancient Turkey



**VALENTINIAN 364-375AD**



Valentinian the Great. Greatest man of his age  
Died of a stroke flying into a rage

**VALENS 364-378AD**



**GRATIAN 367-383<sub>AD</sub>**



The Altar of Victory was torn down by Gratian  
Who listened to Ambrose in spite of his station

**VALENTINIAN II 375-392<sub>AD</sub>**



Young Val The Second could get no respect  
In the end he was found with a rope 'round his neck

**EUGENIUS THE USURPER 392-394<sub>AD</sub>**



**THEODOSIUS 379-395<sub>AD</sub>**



Theodosius made Christ Rome's official belief  
And kowtowed to Ambrose who'd given him grief



**ARCADIUS 395-408<sub>AD</sub>**



Arcadius was ruled by Eudoxia, his wife  
Eunuchs and ministers governed his life

**HONORIUS 395-423<sub>AD</sub>**



**THEODOSIUS II 408-450<sub>AD</sub>**



Theo the Second built walls 'round the borough  
of Constantinople, they're well-made and thorough



**JOHANNES THE USURPER 423-425<sub>AD</sub>**



Johannes usurping was doomed from the start  
They cut off his hands and they tore him apart

**VALENTINIAN III 425-455<sub>AD</sub>**



**PETRONIUS MAXIMUS 455 AD**



Petronius Maximus, stoned by a mob  
In truth, he was not very good at his job

**AVITUS 455-456 AD**



**MAJORIAN 457-461 AD**



Majorian! Capable! Staunch and zealous!  
Then Ricimer killed him because he was jealous

**SEVERUS III 461-465 AD**



**ANTHEMIUS 467-472<sub>AD</sub>**



Anthemius had been a competent leader  
They cut off his head in the house of Saint Peter

**OLYBRIUS 472<sub>AD</sub>**



Ricimers' last PUPPET was Olybrius  
HE died PEACEABLY without violence or FUSS



**GLYCERIUS 473-474<sub>AD</sub>**



Glycerius ruled briefly, was then brushed aside  
To serve as a bishop, years later he died

**JULIUS NEPOS 474-475<sub>AD</sub>**



**ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS 475-476<sub>AD</sub>**



Romulus Augustulus, last of them all  
Deposed in the silence of utter downfall



--and thus it all ended, the power, the story  
A wonderful, terrible, spellbinding story.





## FIRST CENTURY

AUGUSTUS 27BC-14AD

TIBERIUS 14-37

CALIGULA 37-41

CLAUDIUS 41-54

NERO 54-68

GALBA 68-69

OTHO 69

VITELLIUS 69

VESPASIAN 69-79

TITUS 79-81

DOMITIAN 81-96

NERVA 96-98

TRAJAN 98-117

## SECOND CENTURY

TRAJAN 98-117

HADRIAN 117-138

ANTONINUS PIUS 138-161

LUCIUS VERUS 161-169

MARCUS AURELIUS 161-180

COMMODUS 180-192

PERTINAX 193

DIDIUS JULIANUS 193

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS 193-211

## THIRD CENTURY

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS 193-211

GETA 211

CARACALLA 211-217

MACRINUS 217-218

ELAGABALUS 218-222

SEVERUS ALEXANDER 222-235

MAXIMINUS THRAX 235-238

GORDIAN I 238

GORDIAN II 238

PUPIENUS 238

BALBINUS 238

GORDIAN III 238-244

PHILIP THE ARAB 244-249

DECIUS 249-251

GALLUS 251-253

AEMILIANUS 253

VALERIAN 253-260

GALLIENUS 253-268

CLAUDIUS GOTHICUS 268-270

QUINTILLUS 270

AURELIAN 270-275

TACITUS 275-276

FLORIAN 276

PROBUS 276-282

CARUS 282-283

NUMERIAN 283-284

CARINUS 284-285

## FOURTH CENTURY

### WEST

MAXIMIAN 286-310  
CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS 305-306  
SEVERUS II 306-307  
MAXENTIUS 306-312  
LICINIUS 308-324

### EAST

DIOCLETIAN 284-305  
GALERIUS 305-311  
MAXIMINUS DAIA 310-313

CONSTANTINE 307-337

CONSTANTINE II 337-340    CONSTANTIUS II 337-361  
CONSTANS 337-350

JULIAN 360-363

JOVIAN 363-364

VALENTINIAN 364-375

GRATIAN 367-383

VALENTINIAN II 375-392

EUGENIUS THE USURPER 392-394

HONORIUS 395-423

VALENS 364-378

THEODOSIUS 379-395

ARCADIUS 395-408

## FIFTH CENTURY

### WEST

HONORIUS 395-423  
JOHANNES THE USURPER 423-425  
VALENTINIAN III 425-455

### EAST

ARCADIUS 395-408  
THEODOSIUS II 408-450  
\*becomes the Byzantine Empire.  
last until 451