

# BRITANNIA

## LOST EAGLES OF ROME

**D**URING NERO'S REIGN IN ANCIENT ROME, ANTONIUS AXIA ROSE TO FAME AS A HERO AT THE BATTLE OF TIGRANOCERTA, SAVING THE LIVES OF HIS FELLOW LEGIONARIES. BRAVE, LOYAL – ALL THAT A SOLDIER SHOULD BE – HE WAS CALLED UPON BY THE VESTAL VIRGINS, PRIESTESSES ENTRUSTED TO GUARD THE SACRED FLAME OF ROME, TO RESCUE ONE OF THEIR OWN WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED AND TAKEN INTO THE WILDS OF BRITANNIA.



WHEN ANTONIUS TRACKED THE VESTAL DOWN, HE RESCUED HER FROM BEING EATEN BY A TERRIBLE DEMON CALLED ORKUS. THE ENCOUNTER WITH ORKUS LEFT HIS MIND CRACKED. TO REPAY HIS BRAVERY, THE VESTAL VIRGINS REHABILITATED HIM BY GIVING HIM ACCESS TO THE CODEX, A SACRED TEXT WHICH GAVE HIM INSIGHT INTO THE MINDS AND MOTIVATIONS OF HUMANKIND.

USING THIS UNDERSTANDING OF CAUSE AND EFFECT, HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY, AND THE SUBCONSCIOUS, ANTONIUS NOW WORKS IN ROME, USING THESE DEDUCTIVE SKILLS TO SOLVE CASES AS THE WORLD'S FIRST DETECTIVE.



IN THE TIME OF THE EMPEROR NERO EACH LEGION OF THE GREAT ROMAN ARMY HAS ITS OWN STANDARD, AND THESE STANDARDS TAKE THE FORM OF AN EAGLE OR AQUILA.

THE EAGLES ARE VENERATED BY THE SOLDIERS. FOR A ROMAN EAGLE IS MORE THAN SIMPLY THE SYMBOL OF A LEGION-- IT REPRESENTS THE EMPEROR.

A SYMBOL OF ROMAN POWER ITSELF.



IT WAS SUCH A POTENT SYMBOL THAT AT TIMES OF GREAT DANGER IN BATTLE, JULIUS CAESAR IS SAID TO HAVE WRINGED THE EAGLE FROM ITS STAFF AND HIDDEN IT IN THE FOLDS OF HIS TUNIC.

FOR ITS LOSS BRINGS SHAME NOT ONLY TO THAT LEGION.

IT DISGRACES AND ENFEebles ROME ITSELF.



IT'S WITH JUST SUCH SYMBOLIC BAGGIES  
THAT THE ROMAN LEGIONS MARCH DEEP  
INTO UNKNOWN TERRITORY, INTO THE  
VAST AND AWFUL GERMANIC FOREST  
KNOWN AS *TOTTENWALD*.

IF YOU'VE BEEN A SOLDIER,  
YOU WILL KNOW THERE IS NO  
FINER SIGHT THAN A ROMAN  
ARMY ON THE MOVE.

THE DISCIPLINE, THE WELL-DRILLED  
FORMATION, A THING OF BEAUTY THAT  
EVEN THE SMELL OF HORSE DUNG AND  
HUMAN SWEAT CAN'T QUITE SPOIL.

IT'S WHAT WE ROMANS  
ARE MOST PROUD OF.



SO WHAT HAPPENS THIS DAY  
WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES  
FAR BEYOND GERMANY.



OF COURSE, WHAT  
DOES HAPPEN, EXACTLY, IS  
A MATTER OF DEBATE.

SOMETHING THAT WILL NO  
DOUBT KEEP HISTORIANS  
AND GOSSIPS BUSY FOR  
MANY DECADES...

