

## LoveReading Reader reviews of *Vespasian: Tribune of Rome* by Robert Fabbri

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

### Oliver Keating

*I hope the story of Vespasian is the start of many because this author has the ability to get you right there on his shoulder in the thick of the battle. Action is the word for this book where every problem is solved at the point of a sword.*

*Vespasian quickly takes to life as a tribune in the Roman Army and revels in command of his column of men. Leading his men in battle from the front with ruthless passion.*

*You can tell the Author has done his research, at times it's almost 'I Claudius' but better! The description of Roman military manoeuvres as they advanced into battle left me wanting more.*

*Yes more of this please Mr Fabbri and soon!*



### Pam Kennedy

**Wow what a book!** *I have never read this author's books before but now I have a lot to catch up. His writing flows, he grips you from the first word. I feel as though I have had a stay in ancient Rome.*

*This is my first experience of Robert Fabbri and what have I been missing? The words just flow along, the story is brilliant, fast paced and to be honest after I*

*had read the chariot race I was worn out. That chariot scene easily ranked up there with Lew Wallace' chariot race in Ben Hur. An absolutely brilliant, brilliant book, I am beginning to feel that I know what the Romans were really like. Robert Fabbri thank you for so much pleasure and thank you Lovereading for the pleasure of reviewing it.*

**Jo-anne Atkinson - twitter pluckedhighbrow.wordpress.com**

*A fictionalised novel set around the life of Vespasian, destined to become an Emperor but not for many years. **This is a high quality sword and sandals epic.***

*Vespasian has lived his first 16 years in relative obscurity on his parents' farm, his elder brother Sabenus has served in the army for four years and is now returned to Rome. Both boys are destined to use their family contacts to help them forge careers serving the Empire and the family travels to Rome to seek preferment.*

*Once reaching Rome it is clear that the Empire is struggling with internal strife and plots are manifest at every turn. Vespasian and Sejanus are taken up by Antonia, sister-in-law of Tiberius and mother of Caligula, serving her leads them into conflict with Sejanus, leader of the Praetorian Guard. Even a military posting the Thracia does not mean safety for Vespasian as he is drawn into a plot to destabilise the region, masterminded by Sejanus.*

*Being completely honest **I have to admit that I've never been drawn to historical fiction of this era.** The 'swords and sandals' epics have not appealed. **This book is one that could change my mind.** The author plays fast and loose with history to a certain extent but there is no doubt that he has researched Roman life and military actions. As a fictionalised biography of the early life of a well-documented character this book is not a piece of high literature. However as piece of historical fiction linked to known individual it is a pacy and exciting read.*

**Sarah Musk**

***An exciting, skilfully written book about Vespasian who became one of the most famous of the Roman emperors. A book for lovers of the Romans and their turbulent world.***

*I love a good book about the Romans and this book, 'Tribune of Rome', ticks all the boxes. It has a real leading character who led a genuinely interesting and*

*exciting life and who, as we always know throughout the books, became one of the most famous Roman emperors. Most of the events Robert Fabbri writes about occurred and that makes the story even more gripping.*

*I loved the description of the young Vespasian and his family approaching Rome - the deafening noise of the wheels of the carts, the jostling and hubbub of all the seething mass of humanity seen through the young man's eyes for the first time. The battle scenes are exhilarating - Robert Fabbri does not hold back from depicting the utter brutality of the fighting and the clinical precision of the Roman soldiers. There are some torture scenes, which I must admit are not my favourite reading matter, but they were vicious times and the author is only honestly portraying what was normal in the ancient world.*

*I fully intend to read the whole series (I have just ordered the next book) because Robert Fabbri, through skilful writing, has made the reader care about what happens to Vespasian and has you rooting for him all the way through.*

### **Daisy Otway**

***A real page turner! Interesting and exciting with fluent writing skills and enabling a thorough use of the imagination. I really enjoyed this book and can't wait to read more!***

*After taking a while to actually get in to the book I became unable to put it down. It was a real page turner of a book! Young Vespasian the main character is seen to start off as a young man leaving his farming roots behind and setting out to join the army developing into a brave warrior who overcomes all odds. The character development is extensive and exciting which really helps to get you involved in the book. I really felt like I was experiencing the life of a Roman soldier and felt really involved with the characters. Although this book was a good read in my opinion one negative would be to say that the names of both cities and people are complicated and in my opinion hard to pronounce which does halt the flow of the book. However this would be the only downside as I really enjoyed it overall.*

### **Les Warriner**

*A thoroughly engrossing read!*

*The book is the first in a series of novels setting out the journey of Vespasian from birth to becoming the Emperor of Rome. This guarantees his survival at the end of the book, but it does not detract from the tension and excitement that*

*I was caught up in as the tale progresses.*

*Exciting it certainly is as Vespasian is obliged at the tender age of 16 to give up his passion as manager of his parent's estate to travel to Rome to enlist in the army as the key to opening up his future in Roman society. His journey to Rome and beyond is fraught with intrigue, adventure, violence, romance and betrayal.*

***The descriptions of Roman society, the value of loyalty and life are totally enthralling, as are the depiction of everyday life from slaves to nobility.*** *It seems that of the characters involved, only Vespasian is likely to make it to the final chapter and the further volumes, but it is a journey I look forward to making.*

### **Magdalena Vidgen**

#### ***Historical fiction at its best.***

*‘Tribune of Rome tells the story of a young man from the country, who by trick of fate gets entangled into the circles of intrigue and politics of Rome. There Vespasian meets people of the highest circles and makes both friends and enemies. He is then sent as an army tribune to fight rebelling tribes in the East. His secret mission - to find a spy and to discover evidence enough to condemn conspiring enemies of the Emperor.*

*He is just a boy of 16, but distinguishes himself on the field of battle and conducts himself with honour.*

*Like in all good adventure stories, we have spies, barbarian tribes, battles and escapes, as well as a beautiful girl, whose gift saves his life when in peril.*

*This is well research historical fiction, so we can learn about customs of ancient Romans and intricacies of politics mingled with the need for ultimate power.*

*I have really enjoyed this story and I am looking forward to reading more books about Vespasian's road to the highest honours of the Empire.*

### **Angela Rhodes**

*Vespasian is a sixteen years old and works on the family farm tending the sheep whilst his elder brother Sabinus is now home from the Army. Vespasian, leaves his family and farm, behind, going with his brother to Rome, here he finds a side of himself he didn't expect, he likes being in the Roman Army. What he doesn't know, is he is part of a prophecy.*

*The battle scenes are a little graphic but so well written and the characters are based on real Romans.*

***This is History brought to life. Excellent books for anyone who likes one they can get their teeth into.***

**Susan Walsh**

***Thoroughly enjoyable read! Brings a great tale to life. Couldn't put it down.***

*Thrilling...a masterpiece.*

*From the very first page this tale of Ancient Rome leaps off its pages.*

*You can see the colour, smell the everyday life, feel the passion & fear the death that may await you.*

*Superbly written it's a real joy to read, the tale unfolds to bring you delight after delight as each page is turned.*

*Follow Vespasian the younger brother of Titus, as he leaves his country home to join the Army...*

*Bloody battles, politics & Rome are very much brought into play as this brilliant tale unfolds*

*10/10....loved it.*

*ID certainly recommend this ...superb!*

You can follow Susan on Twitter: @truckermercedes.

**Pauline Braisher**

I had mixed feelings about this book. I thought it was well-written, the story was interesting and the characters were credible. I enjoy historical novels, as they are a good way to learn and can pique the reader's interest: I researched after reading the book that there had been an Emperor Vespasian, which I hadn't been aware of, and it was interesting to read about Roman society and politics. However, I didn't like the graphic descriptions of the battles or methods of torture and skipped those passages. I also found the Latin terms for the various army ranks and the Latin names of the countries confusing. Some readers may also be offended by the bad language. **I would like to find out how the story progresses throughout the other novels in the series but I am put off**

**by the violence.** If this doesn't bother other readers, however, they will have an enjoyable reading experience.