

# The Roman Empire in the First Century

4 x 55



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20 x 50

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## An EMPIRES Special

Two thousand years ago, at the dawn of the first century, the world was ruled by Rome. The Roman Empire struggled with problems which are surprisingly familiar: violent coups, assassination, overarching ambition, civil war, clashes between the classes as well as the sexes and questions of personal freedom versus government control.

But from the chaos, the Roman Empire would emerge stronger and more dazzling than ever before. Soon, it would stretch from Britain across Europe to the shores of North Africa; and from Spain across Greece and the Middle East to the borders of Asia. It would embrace hundreds of languages and religions and till its many cultures into a rich soil from which Western civilization would grow. Rome would become the world's first and most enduring superpower.

Through the experiences, memories, and writings of the people who lived it, this series tells the story of that time - of the emperors, slaves, poets and peasants who wrested order from chaos, built the most cosmopolitan society the world had ever seen, and shaped The Roman Empire in the First Century.

## ORDER FROM CHAOS

Millions of people -- both famous and uncelebrated -- play parts in the astonishing rise of Rome. Above them all is Caesar Augustus. Born in times of crisis and raised amid civil war, Augustus comes to personify the people he leads. He is contradictory: capable of both brutal violence and tender compassion. He is influential: forging the image of Roman grandeur that endures to this day. And he is enormously popular. But those who cross Augustus -- his rivals Marc Antony and Cleopatra; the love poet, Ovid; even his own daughter, Julia -- face dire consequences. The story of Augustan Rome is the story of greatness at a price.

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## CREDITS

*Directed and produced by Lyn Goldfarb and Margaret Koval*



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