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# STEVEN SAYLOR



## THE HOUSE OF THE VESTALS

'Brings the underbelly of ancient Rome to life and leapsfrog over the  
missed ranks of other historical mystery writers.' *Time Out*

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## The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6)

Steven Saylor

it's historical Rome, and Gordianus the Finder has a knack for locating trouble. Stalking in regards to the city's twisting trails searching for clues and discovering bodies, Gordianus has had his proportion of misadventure with nobles and slaves alike. Identified to many because the one guy within The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6) the old global who can either retain a mystery and discover one, Gordianus has tales to tell.

Ah... Gordiano, o Descobridor... o primeiro detective cínico mas com um profundo sentido de justiça, da história. Admito que esta é sempre uma daquelas personagens que me dá um enorme prazer reencontrar. Não se pode dizer que a escrita de Saylor seja genial (há vários momentos em que é óbvio, por demais, que as personagens estão a falar para dar informações ao leitor e não umas às outras) mas isso é mais que compensado pelos retratos detalhados e vivos que temos de Roma durante os últimos anos da República. Ao fim de poucas páginas conseguimos compreender aquela gente, separada de nós por mais de 2000 anos, como se fossem nossos vizinhos e, ainda mais fantástico que isso, não nos sentimos assim tão distantes deles. Romanos eram gente como nós...com algumas ideias maradas...como nós. Mas para mim, que já sigo o senhor há uns tempos, o melhor de "A Casa das Vestais" foi voltar a ver Gordiano com os seus trinta e poucos anos, ainda sem responsabilidades familiares e sem a melancolia que o parece ter vindo a acompanhar desde "Rubicão" (e sim, europeu detestei essa entrada na série, really). Estava um pouco preocupado que a fórmula routine de Saylor (Acontecimento Histórico como Cenário + Mistério + Desenvolvimentos na vida de Gordiano) fosse impossível de manter decentemente em histórias de poucas páginas, mas o facto de aqui não haver, precisamente, um grande evento da história romana no background, mas apenas o dia-a-dia da cidade, acaba por fazer destes contos uma leitura mais agradável do que alguns dos livros mais recentes. Em vários momentos parece que apenas andamos por alí, a passear com o Gordiano, enquanto ele chateia toda a gente com perguntas inconvenientes. Alguns contos ganharam ainda pontos additional quando ao ler o epílogo descobri que estes, por mais improváveis que parecessem, foram baseados em pequenos casos reais. Diga-se o que se disser o senhor Saylor sabe fazer pesquisa como gente The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6) grande. Quanto aos contos: "A Morte Anda de Máscara" é um típico mistério em que um desgraçado de um investigador não pode sair de casa para ir ao teatro sem que lhe caia o raio de um cadáver aos pés. A história tem momentos um pouco batidos e a solução não é assim tão difícil, mas este é um dos contos que ganha um pontinho additional por ser (incrivelmente) baseado em personagens e acontecimentos reais. 3/5 "A Lenda da Casa do Tesouro" não é tanto um caso como Betesda (a concubina de Gordiano) a dar uma de Xerazade e a contar-lhe um mistério antigo. O ambiente é agradável e a ideia de um mistério\romance histórico estar a ser contada a uma personagem de um mistério\romance histórico é engraçadinha. A história não dura mais do que devia e encaixa bem na relação das personagens. 3/5 "Um Testamento É Uma Boa Maneira" é um dos melhores contos desta colectânea (embora, ironicamente, tenha um dos piores títulos). O mistério é interessante, não demasiado simples nem demasiado rebuscado. Introduce também Lúcio Cláudio, uma personagem que será importante na vida de Gordiano e que, infelizmente,

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já estará morta no próximo livro da série cronologicamente falando (yes, Rome was once a bitch). A cena na enorme necrópole à saída de Roma é um exemplo de Steven Saylor no seu melhor. Ganha também um ponto additional por ser outra daquelas histórias baseadas em acontecimentos reais. 4/5“Os Lémures” não é mau (embora me tivesse sido praticamente impossível, a dada altura, não começar a ouvir a musica The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6) do Scooby Doo na cabeça). Gordino é chamado para investigar um caso de fantaaaaasmas (e pelo caminho dão-lhe outro caso, não relacionado, de... fantaaaaasmas). A história tem pormenores engraçados e a solução dos dois casos é jeitosinha (principalmente a do velho soldado). Mas vá Saylor, realmente esperas que european acredite que um gajo vai investigar um caso rebuscado e, subitamente, a caminho, lhe apareça um vizinho a pedir ajuda para um caso também rebuscado com elementos similares? Sorry mas a minha suspensão de descrença não dá para tanto. 3/5“O Jovem César e Os Piratas”, sim period esse César. E ele aparece... no título... de resto a história tem como pano de fundo um “fanboy” de César que também é raptado por piratas, o Júlio nem vê-lo. A história é mais interessante do que parece e desenvolve-se bem, com um ritmo entre o policial e o mystery que nunca chega a cansar. 4/5“O Desaparecimento da Prata dos Saturnais”, é um mistério de Natal passado seventy seven a.C. Tem muita coisa muito boa, como as descrições dos Saturnais que se festejavam em Roma, de maneira muito comparable ao nosso Natal, mas o caso, em si, é um bocado pobrezinho. No fundo não passa de “as prendas de Natal de um gajo rico foram roubadas, quem terá sido o Bigus Grinchus” (Ah, e também há escravo morto...mas isso é de menos...onde raio estarão as The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6) prendas?). 3/5No “A Abelha Mestra e o Mel”, quase que estava à espera que uma jovem leave out Marple aparecesse para dar uma mãozinha a Gordiano. É um crime campestre numa pacata villa. Mas o crime chega tarde e a más horas para uma história de investigação (a menos de 10 páginas do fim, em 35 páginas), até lá só temos gente a passar umas agradáveis férias no campo e pouco mais. (A solução, no entanto, fará qualquer leitor masculino arrepiar, isso prometo). 3/5“O Gato de Alexandria” é mais uma prequela que outra coisa. Gordiano conta a um amigo como resolveu o homicídio de um gato (serious company no Egipto) quando passou por Alexandria, numa versão da antiguidade de uma The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6) viagem de inter-rail, quando period mais novo. Traição, multidões enraivecidas e The House of the Vestals (Roma Sub Rosa #6) miúdas irritantes seguem-se. Não é particularmente marcante, mas também não maça. 3/5 “A Casa das Vestais” teria sido um dos mistérios mais interessantes deste livro não fosse o senhor Saylor ter dado um significant spoiler num dos seus romances. Em “A Sentença de César” Gordiano recorda-se desta história e praticamente conta a solução tintim por tintim. Sim, isso foi frustrante. Dava para ver que isto period bom, period baseado em factos reais (mais uma vez, surpreendentemente) e tinha todos os elementos para ser um daqueles casos que mantém o leitor agarrado e a coçar a cabeça até à última página. Assim foi só...”meh, ecu já sei onde ele está”. Perdeu muito por isso. 3/5Continuo a dizer que a série Roma Sub Rosa esteve no seu melhor em “Sangue Romano” e “O Abraço de Némesis”, depois disso decai um bocado e nunca se chega a levantar, nem, pelos vistos, com contos, mesmo assim nunca chega a ser má, e vale sempre a pena uma visitinha.

## **The House Of The Vestals Roma Sub Rosa 6**

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