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## Claudius The God And His Wife Messalina 2 Robert Graves

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Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina Claudius the God  
"This novel, like its antecedent *I, Claudius*, will mesmerize those who love classical history, although casual readers may find it tedious. The two works together form a fictional autobiography of the Roman emperor Claudius, who - at least in this literary incarnation - is both an astute observer of first century Roman political society and an extraordinary character in his own right. Born into the Roman imperial family but repelled by the violence and treachery surrounding it, Claudius retreats from power for

much of his adult life. He buries himself in obscure academic pursuits and hides, for what he believes to be his own safety, behind array of weird physical disabilities. When his nephew, the mad emperor Caligula, meets his just reward, the middle-aged Claudius is literally dragged against his will onto the Imperial throne. *I, Claudius* ends with this bizarre scene and Claudius the God takes up from there with the improbable emperor's own account of his reign up to point of his death. Much to everyone's surprise, Claudius emerges into the public eye as an energetic, able and just ruler. And while the great pride he takes in his enterprise is evident, both the style of his rule and the tone of his narrative is characterized by a wry and self-deprecating humor. Much of the book consists of a detailed recounting of the administrative, judicial and military minutia in which Claudius immersed himself. However, there is a deeper theme at work too, which is the inevitability that innocence in a corrupt world will be betrayed. Claudius's closest friend for much of his life is Herod Agrippa, the grandson of the biblical Herod the Great. Herod Agrippa is a

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charming rogue and schemer who, while genuinely fond of Claudius, teases him mercilessly for being a fool and warns him, as it turns out in all seriousness, to "trust no one". The irony in the admonition is apparent when Herod himself betrays Claudius, plotting militarily against him and almost succeeding. This is only a side story, however. The thematic climax of the book occurs when it comes to light that Claudius's beautiful wife Messalina, whom he adores with the intense innocence of a teenager in love, has been using him all along for the fool, taking lovers and mocking Claudius behind his back. He finally discovers the truth when she is found to be conspiring with one of these paramours to seize the throne. She is executed for her treachery, but Claudius's spirit dies with her. He re-marries, but to a woman he cares nothing about and who, with his knowledge and acquiescence - for his death has been foretold by augury - begins amassing power on her own and conspiring to make way for her own son by a previous marriage. This son is later to enter history as the decadent fiddler Nero. The book closes with actual historical accounts by Tacitus and Dio Cassius of the real-life emperor's death at the hands of his ambitious wife, who poisons him. The last pages give us the final degradation, a bitterly satirical account Seneca, depicting Claudius - in death, once again the fool - trying to enter Olympus as the deified emperor but being banished mockingly to Hades by the other gods. The book is cynical and deeply sad. It's beautifully written and I recommend it, although it won't be to everyone's taste"--Amazon.com.

*Claudius Caesar* OUP Oxford

"Both the knowledge of a scholar and the

imagination of a poet are brought to bear upon Jesus as child, boy, and man. . . . A bold speculative adventure." (Harold Brighouse, *Manchester Guardian*) In Graves's unique retelling, Jesus is very much a mortal and the grandson of King Herod the Great. When his father runs afoul of the King's temper and is executed, Jesus is raised in the house of Joseph the Carpenter. The kingdom he is heir to, in this version of the story, is very much a terrestrial one: the Kingdom of Judea. Graves tells of Jesus's rise as a philosopher, scriptural scholar, and charismatic speaker in sharp detail, as well as his arrest and downfall as a victim of pitiless Roman politics. Bringing together his unparalleled narrative skill and in-depth expertise in historical scholarship, renowned classicist and historical novelist Robert Graves brings the story of Jesus Christ to life in a strikingly unorthodox way, making this one of the most hotly contested novels Graves ever wrote—and possibly one of the most controversial ever written. It provides a fascinating new twist to a well-known story, one that fans of this historical period are sure to love. "This is not reading for the

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easily shocked; it definitely presents Jesus as a sage and a poet, if not divine. It moves, as does all Mr. Graves' writing, at a brilliant fast pace, and with a tremendous style." —Kirkus Reviews

### Greek Gods and Heroes Vintage

Robert Graves begins anew the tumultuous life of the Roman who became emperor in spite of himself. Captures the vitality, splendor, and decadence of the Roman world at the point of its decline.

**Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina** Rosetta Books  
From the autobiography of Tiberius Claudius, born B.C. X murdered and deified A.D. LIV.

### Collector's Library

In this sequel to *I, Claudius*, the story of the Roman Emperor—on which the award-winning BBC TV series was based—continues . . .

In *I, Claudius*, Robert Graves began the story of the limping, stammering young man who is suddenly thrust onto the throne after the death of Caligula. In *Claudius the God*, Graves continues the story, detailing Claudius' s thirteen-year reign and his ultimate downfall. Painting the vivid, tumultuous, and decadent society of ancient Rome with spectacular detail, Robert Graves provides a tale that is instructive, compelling, and difficult to put down for both casual readers and students of Roman history.

### Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina London : Methuen

The poet Robert Graves' use of material from classical sources has been contentious to scholars for many years, with a number of classicists baulking at his interpretation of myth and his novelization of history, and

questioning its academic value. This collection of essays provides the latest scholarship on Graves' historical fiction (for example in *I, Claudius* and *Count Belisarius*) and his use of mythical figures in his poetry, as well as an examination of his controversial retelling of the Greek Myths. The essays explore Graves' unique perspective and expand our understanding of his works within their original context, while at the same time considering their relevance in how we comprehend the ancient world.

### *Claudius, the God and His Wife* Vintage

A continuation of Mr. Graves's *I, Claudius*, but a complete story in itself and a very curious and moving one. In A.D. 41, on the assassination of his mad nephew Caligula, the learned and retiring Claudius, whom most people regarded as an imbecile, was unexpectedly acclaimed as Emperor by the Imperial Guards. He was a confirmed Republican; his first passionate refusal to reign was not taken seriously, and he gave in, chiefly because he believed that only by his doing so could civil war be avoided. The Senate accepted him, too, when it saw that he had the support of the Army, and he settled down to work at once, doing his best to reconcile his republican convictions with practical patriotism. His methods of government were unconventional because he had almost no administrative experience behind him, and he earned a great deal of ridicule, but got things done somehow.

### Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina Rosetta Books

Robert Graves begins anew the tumultuous life of the Roman who became emperor in spite of himself. Captures the vitality, splendor, and decadence of the Roman world at the point of its decline.

### *Claudius the God* Penguin Hardcover

The Julio-Claudian family possessed all the brutality and dysfunctionality of the Sopranos, but with fewer (or no) constraints on their power to injure outsiders or each other. From this raw material Robert Graves brilliantly recreates a world of power, intrigue and cruelty, a world permeated through and through with the threat of sudden and violent death. In the process he raises striking, sometimes unanswerable

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questions: was Tiberius really as depraved as Suetonius suggests? Was Livia the true power behind Augustus' throne? And did she really poison all those people? Did Caligula seriously plan to make his horse a consul? Whether or not we can answer these questions, this was certainly a world in which such things could happen. With an Afterword by Tom Griffith.  
*Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina* Vintage

"This novel, like its antecedent *I, Claudius*, will mesmerize those who love classical history, although casual readers may find it tedious. The two works together form a fictional autobiography of the Roman emperor Claudius, who - at least in this literary incarnation - is both an astute observer of first century Roman political society and an extraordinary character in his own right. Born into the Roman imperial family but repelled by the violence and treachery surrounding it, Claudius retreats from power for much of his adult life. He buries himself in obscure academic pursuits and hides, for what he believes to be his own safety, behind a wall of weird physical disabilities. When his nephew, the mad emperor Caligula, meets his just reward, the middle-aged Claudius is literally dragged against his will onto the Imperial throne. *I, Claudius* ends with this bizarre scene and *Claudius the God* takes up from there with the improbable emperor's own account of his reign up to point of his death. Much to everyone's surprise, Claudius emerges into the public eye as an energetic, able and just ruler. And while the great pride he takes in his enterprise is evident, both the style of his rule and the tone of his narrative is characterized by a wry and self-deprecating humor. Much of the book consists of a detailed recounting of the administrative, judicial and military minutiae in which Claudius immersed himself. However, there is a deeper theme at work too,

which is the inevitability that innocence in a corrupt world will be betrayed. Claudius's closest friend for much of his life is Herod Agrippa, the grandson of the biblical Herod the Great. Herod Agrippa is a charming rogue and schemer who, while genuinely fond of Claudius, teases him mercilessly for being a fool and warns him, as it turns out in all seriousness, to "trust no one". The irony in the admonition is apparent when Herod himself betrays Claudius, plotting militarily against him and almost succeeding. This is only a side story, however. The thematic climax of the book occurs when it comes to light that Claudius's beautiful wife Messalina, whom he adores with the intense innocence of a teenager in love, has been using him all along for the fool, taking lovers and mocking Claudius behind his back. He finally discovers the truth when she is found to be conspiring with one of these paramours to seize the throne. She is executed for her treachery, but Claudius's spirit dies with her. He remarries, but to a woman he cares nothing about and who, with his knowledge and acquiescence - for his death has been foretold by augury - begins amassing power on her own and conspiring to make way for her own son by a previous marriage. This son is later to enter history as the decadent fiddler Nero. The book closes with actual historical accounts by Tacitus and Dio Cassius of the real-life emperor's death at the hands of his ambitious wife, who poisons him. The last pages give us the final degradation, a bitterly satirical account Seneca, depicting Claudius - in death, once again the fool - trying to enter Olympus as the deified emperor but being banished mockingly to Hades by the other gods. The book is cynical and deeply sad. It's beautifully written and I recommend it, although it won't be to everyone's taste" -- Amazon.com.

## The Claudius Novels Carcanet Press

Unlock the more straightforward side of Claudius the God with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of Claudius the God by Robert Graves, the fictionalised autobiography of the titular character, who unexpectedly became emperor in CE 41. This volume of the autobiography follows on from I, Claudius and explores Claudius' time as emperor, when he sought to reverse the harsh policies enacted by his predecessor Caligula and expand the empire by conquering Britain. However, unbeknownst to him, his beloved wife and trusted freedmen were plotting against him, leaving him in great danger. Robert Graves was an English poet, novelist and critic. He is known in particular for his autobiography Goodbye to All That and his novels I, Claudius and Claudius the God, which are now regarded as classic works of historical fiction. Find out everything you need to know about Claudius the God in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:

- A complete plot summary
- Character studies
- Key themes and symbols
- Questions for further reflection

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Claudius the God and His Wife Messalina, Etc. [A Novel.].

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Claudius the God Vintage

Claudius the God Rosetta Books

Reissue of the two classic novels set in Ancient Rome.

King Jesus

A study of the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54), exploring what it can tell us about the developing Roman Empire.

Claudius the god

Claudius the stammerer was known as a buffoon and a fool. but despite his reputation he was destined to become Emperor - and

shrewd enough to record some of the most scandalous, debauched times in history. Here, in this magnificent fictionalized autobiography, Claudius chronicles the shocking intrigues, lusts, perversions and bloodshed of the Imperial Roman households, from the great days of Augustus and the cruelty of Tiberius, to the insane excesses of Caligula. As Claudius reveals his innermost thoughts throughout his own surprisingly successful reign and his tempestuous marriage to the depraved Messalina, his voice is humorous, sometimes fearful, always inquisitive, bringing the past to brilliant life in two of the most celebrated and compelling historical novels ever written.

I, Claudius

A retelling of the greatest myths and legends of the ancient Greek gods and heroes for readers of all ages by a celebrated historical novelist. In the ancient past, the Gods and Goddesses of ancient Greece lived on Mount Olympus and ruled the world of mortals. Famous heroes shaped the course of history, beautiful women drew the gazes of gods and men alike, and the gods were both fickle in their favors and breathtakingly generous to those they smiled upon. From Midas' tragic gift to the exploits of Hercules and the curse of Pandora, renowned classicist and historical novelist Robert Graves brings the legends of ancient Greece to life in a lively, accessible way that's sure to appeal to everyone; from children to adults, and from casual readers to serious scholars.

Claudius the God and His Messalina

Considered an idiot because of his physical infirmities, Claudius survived the intrigues and poisonings of the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, and the Mad Caligula to become emperor in 41 A.D. A masterpiece.

Claudius, the God and His Wife Messalina

Robert Graves begins anew the tumultuous life of the Roman who became emperor in spite of himself. Captures the vitality, splendor, and decadence of the Roman world at the point of its decline.

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