



Gladiator

By Richard Watkins

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GLADIATOR explores the world of the gladiators, from their humble beginnings as slaves to their schooling as gladiators and their often violent death in the arena, and looks at their influence on our lives today.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In a starred review, PW called this an "engrossing debut, an eloquent history that will make gladiators seem as real for today's readers as they were over 1,500 years ago." Ages 8-12. (Sept.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9. The rectangular picture-book format is perfect for a book that describes the incredibly long history of the Roman games. In Watkins's dramatic and realistic charcoal-and-pencil drawings, placed against stark white pages, readers see the bizarre equipment of the gladiators, the exotic animals brought to the arenas, and the complex architecture and advanced technology involved in the construction of the great amphitheaters of the Roman Empire. The 12 brief chapters nicely balance the pictures with amazing facts about the 7 centuries of official arena shows. The horror of blood sports is not shown in the precisely detailed drawings but lies in the statistical information about the numbers of victims and the long popularity of death-centered entertainments. Watkins's research in recent and scholarly books of history reveals the political uses of the games, the central role of the hundreds of amphitheaters throughout the Empire, and the reluctance of both people and government to give up the games. The glamour of the gladiators as superheroes will draw readers to learn about the contests, the weapons, the bloodshed, and the inhumanity of a culture that for centuries celebrated death as public sport. Watkins handles a difficult subject well, stressing the games as so fixed in the history and politics of the Roman world that reminders of their long duration can be seen today. If any single title can turn sports-minded young people into students of history, this is the book to do it. ?Shirley Wilton, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ

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From Kirkus Reviews

The heroic and bloody story of the Roman gladiators is retold in Watkins's debut work, a comprehensive and vividly illustrated guide that will impart his obvious passion for the subject to budding historians. Despite their sophistication in government and the arts, Romans had a cruel and crude taste for violence, and Watkins traces the growth of the games from the first combat in 264 b.c., at the funeral of Junius Brutus, to the elaborate spectacles that regularly entranced thousands at the Colosseum. A job that was first thought fit only for prisoners of war, slaves, and criminals, it became an honored profession that, at the height of the empire, was more than half-full of distinguished male volunteers (women gladiators were officially banned in a.d. 200). Watkins meticulously reviews the training of gladiators and also takes readers through an upbeat gallery of the various types of gladiators who played the games. The black-and-white drawings capture the elegance of the Roman Colosseum, and the excitement of the sea battles that were held at terrific expense; the renderings of the gladiators are consistently dramatic. (map, bibliography, further reading, glossary, index) (Nonfiction. 10-15) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tommy Cowen:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe

will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This Gladiator is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Douglas Ayer:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Gladiator as your daily resource information.

Charles Smith:

Typically the book Gladiator has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was published by the very famous author. The author makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this article book.

Rebecca Dryden:

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