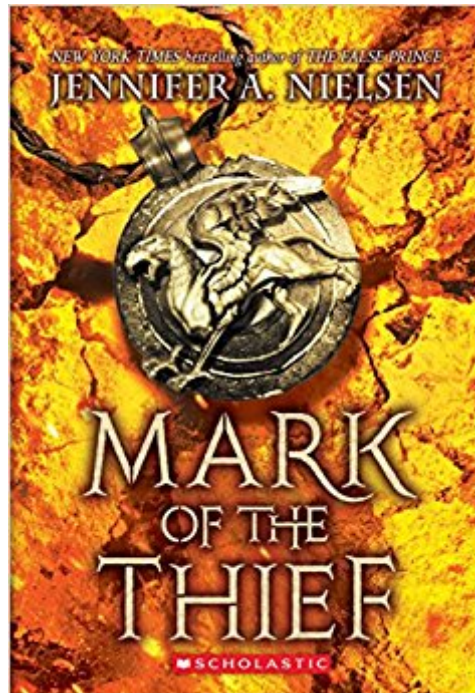




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# Mark Of The Thief (Mark Of The Thief #1)



## Synopsis

When Nic, a slave in the mines outside of Rome, is forced to enter a sealed cavern containing the lost treasures of Julius Caesar, he finds much more than gold and gemstones: He discovers an ancient bulla, an amulet that belonged to the great Caesar and is filled with a magic once reserved for the Gods -- magic some Romans would kill for. Now, with the deadly power of the bulla pulsing through his veins, Nic is determined to become free. But instead, he finds himself at the center of a ruthless conspiracy to overthrow the emperor and spark the Praetor War, a battle to destroy Rome from within. Traitors and spies lurk at every turn, each more desperate than the next to use Nic's newfound powers for their own dark purposes. In a quest to stop the rebellion, save Rome, and secure his own freedom, Nic must harness the magic within himself and defeat the empire's most powerful and savage leaders.

## Book Information

Series: Mark of the Thief (Book 1)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint edition (December 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545561558

ISBN-13: 978-0545561556

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,043 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #1411 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #1925 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6â9âA fantastical alternate history set in ancient Rome. Nicolas Calva and his sister are slaves in the mines outside of Rome. When Nic is forced to retrieve treasure from Julius Caesar's cave, he assumes he is going to his death. But inside the cave he finds a bulla, a magical amulet thought to have given Caesar great power, and takes it for himself. Suddenly, Nic is the most

wanted fugitive in Rome. The emperor and a powerful general are after the amulet and they will kill Nic to get it. His only help is Aurelia, a plebian girl who is searching for her own family. With no one to trust and nowhere to hide, the protagonist must decide how he is going to save his sister and get out with his life. He doesn't want the bulla or the responsibility of the magic it contains, but if the magical object gets into the wrong hands, Rome will be at war and Nic will be at the center of it all. Fans of Nielsen's "Ascendance" trilogy (Scholastic) will be clamoring for this new series. This genre mash-up of history, fantasy, and action/adventure is fast-paced and explores themes such as class struggles, familial ties, and the immorality of slavery. Readers will have lots to digest as they quickly flip through the pages to see how Nic will escape his enemies to become a free man.â "Kimberly Garnick Giarratano, Rockaway Township Public Library, NJ --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Praise for Mark of the Thief"The fast-paced, ingenious plot, charismatic hero and highly diverse cast of characters . . . make this series opener a captivating joy ride." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review"Vivid . . . [with] page-turning twists." -- Publishers WeeklyPraise for the Ascendance TrilogyA New York Times Notable Children's BookA USA Today Best Book of the YearA Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" Children's BookA Cybils Award Winner"A page-turner." -- The New York Times Book Review"Sage proves to be a compelling character whose sharp mind and shrewd self-possession will make readers eager to follow him into a sequel." -- Wall Street Journal"A swashbuckling origin story . . . chock-full of alluring details for adventure-loving boys." -- Los Angeles Times"An impressive, promising story." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review"A fast-paced and thrilling read with twists and turns that never let up." -- School Library Journal"Gripping." -- Kirkus Reviews"Should appeal to fans of . . . Suzanne Collins. . . A sure-fire mix of adventure, mystery, and suspense." -- The Horn Book

This is one of the most terrific stories there is. It will capture you in the first few pages. I couldn't get out of this series. I would lay awake at night reading until I couldn't even keep my eyes open. This is one of the most amazing books out there. Once I finished this one I attached myself to the other two dazzling books. Since then I have gone on to reading all this author's wonderful books. Great detail, plot, characters, and setting. One of the best series I have ever read. I highly recommend this series to absolutely anyone. AWESOME SERIES!!

I really liked this book and I loved how it was set in Rome. It kept me on the edge of my seat at the

end. I felt bad for the main character though he was betrayed by so many people. He really had no one else to help him except his EVIL grandfather and his useless sister. His grandfather might have drained his magic, but not his cleverness. But overall I thought this book was a good read, and I hope whoever is reading this review thinks so too.

My 5th grade son is a voracious reader and read Jennifer Nielsen's trilogy with the book titled The False Prince. Since he enjoyed those so much and re-read that trilogy I bought the 3 other books of hers: Mark of the Thief, Rise of the Wolf, and Wrath of the Storm. He is really loving them.

This book is packed full of fascinating places, characters, and conflict. My daughter and I had so much fun reading this together-- and stressing over all the crazy situations that Nic got himself into. Well done.

Be advised, this is Young Adult Fiction and therefore a bit fanciful and unrealistic. Plot lines are not very deep, character development is elementary. Appropriate for an advanced 5th grader or a functioning 7th grader. Do not expect a great deal of historical accuracy.

While I love Nielsen's stories, I was disappointed in the writing of this one. It just read choppy and not quite polished like her others. There were a few holes in the story and awkward lulls in the progression toward the climax. All that said, it was a good story.

This is a fast-paced fun story. With several twists and turns you will be left having been extremely entertained. I thoroughly enjoy the work of Jennifer Nielsen.

Unable to put down it was so good. The thought process in getting to the point was so incredible. Who thinks like that?!?

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