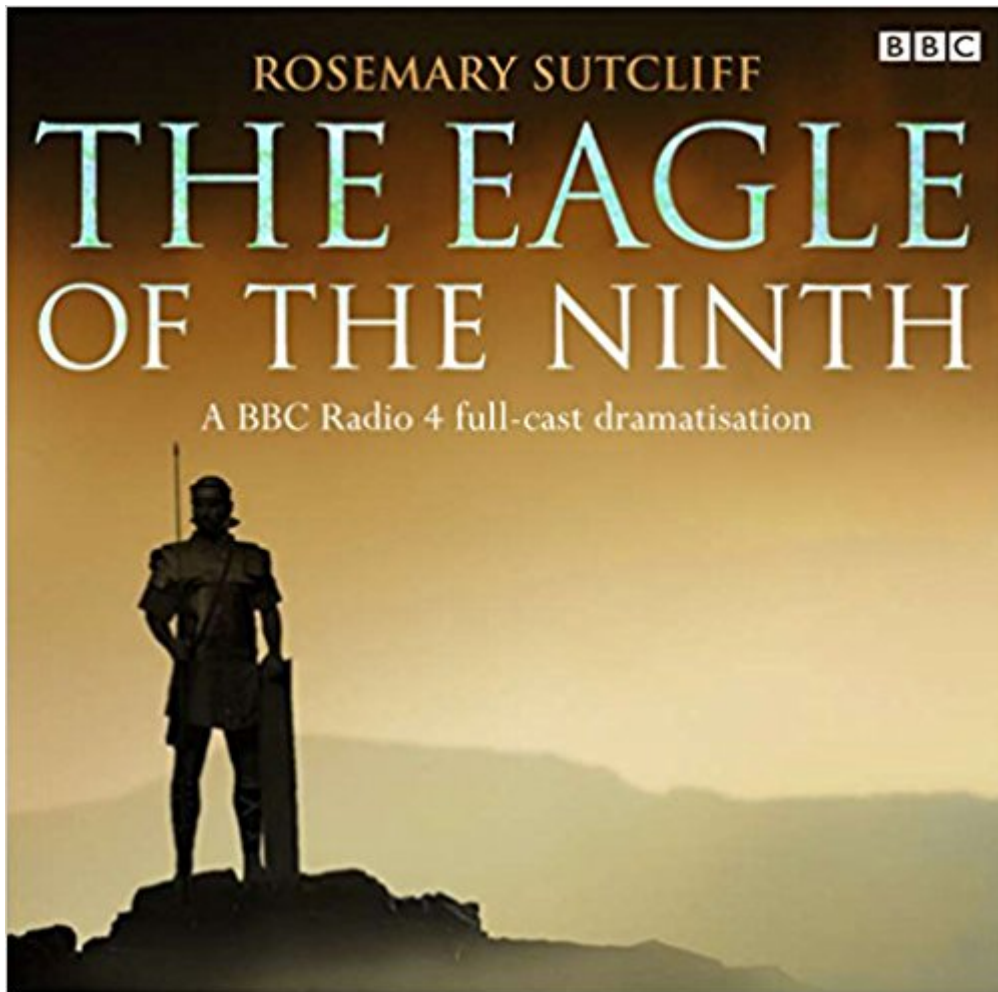




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The Eagle Of The Ninth (BBC Radio)



Synopsis

A BBC Radio 4 full-cast dramatization of Rosemary Sutcliff's much-loved tale of honor, comradeship, and courage. Somewhere around the year 117AD, a Roman garrison called the Ninth Legion was ordered to put down an uprising among the Caledonian tribes. Four thousand men vanished without trace into the swirling mist of the north of Roman Britain. Many years after their disappearance a young centurion, Marcus Aquila, decides to discover the truth about what happened to the legion and to its First Cohort Commander his father. This gripping dramatization tells the story of Marcus's often perilous journey as he searches to solve the mystery, and to bring back the symbol of the lost legion's honor their standard, the Eagle of the Ninth. Now adapted as a major motion picture The Eagle, starring Channing Tatum, Jamie Bell, and Donald Sutherland The Eagle of the Ninth is a timeless tale that will thrill all listeners. This recording was previously available on cassette. 2 CDs.

Book Information

Series: BBC Radio

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: BBC Books; Unabridged edition (March 3, 2011)

Language: English

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"For [readers] poised between Harry Potter and Tolkien, there really is nothing better than Sutcliff."

--The New Yorker --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Rosemary Sutcliff has more than 50 books to her credit and is now universally considered one of

the finest writers of historical novels for children. She is the author of *The Queen Elizabeth Story* and *The Lantern Bearers*, which won the Carnegie Medal. In 1974 she was highly commended for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, and *Song for a Dark Queen* was commended for the Other Award. In 1975, Rosemary was awarded the OBE for services to Children's Literature and the CBE in 1992.

Rosemary Sutcliff's classic, *The Eagle of the Ninth*, is an amazing tale set in 2nd century Britain during Rome's occupation. It is such a captivating tale, that we used it as part of our daughter's literature curriculum. Because it was written in 1954, the language is very rich and vivid. It helps the reader to imagine the sights and sounds and smells of early history. The story is compelling as you follow Marcus on his quest to find out what really happened to his father's legion and reclaim the honor. There are so many fascinating characters, such as Esca, Marcus's freed slave, and the Romans who chose Britain as their home. It is a beautifully written tale and well researched. Hadrian's Wall, the Roman fortresses, the wildness of Caledonia...all of it came alive in Sutcliff's story.

I've always been partial to historical fiction with ancient settings, and have been particularly interested in Roman Britain ever since reading Anya Seton's *The Mistletoe and the Sword* several years ago. Although there is a plethora of fiction set in Roman Britain out there, I have avoided it all assuming that it would be filled with sex, profanity and violence. So when I recently heard about Rosemary Sutcliff's series of novels set in Roman Britain, and that they were written in the 1950s for young adults, I knew I had to give her a try. I was very pleased with *The Eagle of the Ninth*; so pleased, in fact, that I have ordered the next three books in the series. There are many elements of *The Eagle* that are indicative of the fact it was written for a young adult audience: the simplicity of the plot; the non-complexity of the characters and their interactions; the relative shortness of the book (200 pages); the focus on a young man and his friendships, as well as his quest to find out the truth behind his father's death and the disappearance of his Legion. But while *The Eagle of the Ninth* is focused on themes aimed at a younger audience, the author's style is one that will captivate readers of all ages. The focus and tone of the novel should appeal equally to men and women. Her descriptions are lovely and evocative and her language is sophisticated. I recommend keeping a dictionary at hand, as she uses many words and phrases that are unfamiliar to modern readers (or to this reader, anyway). While the meanings of most of them can be approximately determined from the context, if you're a word nerd like me you're probably going to want to look them up. *The Eagle*

of the Ninth is a simple story that is well-written and pleasing. I, for one, am hooked and look forward to reading many more books by this author.

Rosemary Sutcliff's stories are some of our favorites - as well as being the spine for our homeschool study of Ancient Britain and Ancient Rome (The Eagle trilogy). I was DELIGHTED to purchase this story for my 13 year old son who has his own copies of these stories. Only complaint is the stories are in paperback only - where is the Hardcover!!!The full cast (radio theatre) is fantastic. Our family really has enjoyed this story that we all know so well. The movie is amazing as well....

When my youngest son was in grammar school, he really disliked reading. He had no patience for it. I made a list of books that I hoped would pique his interest, and I read a chapter each night until we finished several titles I had picked. One of those books was Rosemary Sutcliffe's "Eagle of the Ninth." Sure, he was old enough to read it on his own. But we both looked forward to each evening's chapter. Today, my 21-year-old son is an avid reader with a broad range of interests. These days, I take reading recommendations from HIM. I was very pleased to see that this historic novel has been reissued in a beautiful hardcover edition, complete with illustrations and an attached ribbon marker. The story is a straight-forward adventure involving young Roman officer Marcus, his slave Esca, and a wolf. It takes place in 2nd Century Britain and is based on a true story. This is the first in a series, and it was made into a movie starring Channing Tatum ("The Eagle"). Sutcliffe did her homework and the novel makes the ancient world come alive. This book belongs on every child's shelf, and your son or daughter will be able to appreciate this particular edition for many years, long enough to pass on to the next generation.

Excellent historical novel. One of my favorites from childhood.

It is both more and less than the movie "The Eagle" which I have watched many times. It is more because the color is richer and the detail is almost overwhelming. It is less because the final scene of the movie is missing, the scene where the remnants of the Ninth come to the aid of Marcus and Esca in a final fight to regain their honor.

I love Rosemary Sutcliff's novels as much for the historical content as the story, so I can only give this 5 stars, even though it isn't my favorite.

If you saw the movie by the same name you know the story, well written and great character development. As in most movies based on books the movie cut out some parts so it does read differently in some chapters.

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