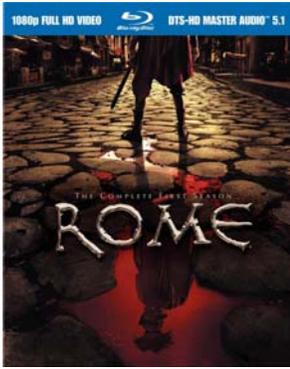


# Rome: Detailed Episode Synopses



## DISC I

### Season 1, Episode 1: [The Stolen Eagle](#) Original Air Date—28 August 2005

In Gaul in 52 B.C., two Roman soldiers, Legionary Titus Pullo and Centurion Lucius Vorenus, are tasked with recovering Julius Caesar's personal Eagle, stolen from his camp in the dead of night. With his campaign in Gaul coming to a successful conclusion, Caesar's popularity is continuing to grow. He's saddened however when he receives news from his good friend Pompey Magnus that his daughter, Pompey's wife, has died in childbirth. In the Senate, Pompey must defend the prolonged absence of his friend and co-Consul Caesar against charges of corruption and of waging an illegal war. It's all a ruse however as he is plotting to eliminate him. Meanwhile, Atia of the Julii sends her son Octavian to Gaul deliver a gift of a beautiful stallion to his great uncle Julius Caesar. He is taken prisoner along the way. Fortunately, Vorenus and Pullo rescue him and as a result, both receive Caesar's favor.

### Season 1, Episode 2: [How Titus Pullo Brought Down the Republic](#) Original Air Date—4 September 2005

Caesar winters his army in Gaul near the Italian border while his enemies in Rome fear that he will do something no Roman General has done: cross the Rubicon with his army. To counter-balance his opponents, Caesar puts his friend Mark Antony up for office as the people's Consul. Vorenus and Pullo accompany Mark Antony and Octavian to Rome. For Pullo, it's an opportunity to get drunk and ravish every woman in sight. He also loses all of his money in a crooked dice game leading to a major brawl. For Vorenus, he will have a reunion with his wife Niobe who he has not seen for 8 years. He's told that the baby he finds in his home is his grandson but Niobe is hiding a secret. In the Senate, there is a move to have Caesar declared a traitor but when Mark Antony tries to return to the Senate to veto their decision, Pullo is attacked by someone he fought the night before. Antony thinks the attack is against him and Pullo kills the man and Caesar declares Pullo a hero.

## DISC II

### Season 1, Episode 3: [An Owl in a Thornbush](#) Original Air Date—11 September 2005

With Caesar quickly advancing toward Rome, Pompey begins ordering a retreat and forces his citizens to pick sides. Timon does Atia's dirty work and Vorenus cannot understand why no one is resisting while on a scouting mission.

### Season 1, Episode 4: [Stealing from Saturn](#) Original Air Date—18 September 2005

Atia and her family have stayed behind when Pompey and others fled and she now throws a party for her triumphant uncle, Julius Caesar. She clearly has her sights set on the great leader and is puzzled when he sends her a guest list that includes Servilia of the Junii. She soon finds out why. Pompey wants to find out what happened to the gold from the Roman Treasury and sends his son Quintus to Rome to find out what happened. They go directly to Vorenus' home but he has no idea what they are talking about. Pullo arrives however and Vorenus tells him to go directly to Caesar himself and explain. Octavian meanwhile learns of one of his uncle's secrets.

### Season 1, Episode 5: [The Ram Has Touched the Wall](#)

Original Air Date—25 September 2005

Caesar contemplates Pompey's counteroffer. Vorenus continues to struggle as a businessman and must reevaluate his career choice. Atia schemes to come between Caesar and Servilia and Pullo seeks Octavian's help.

## DISC III

### Season 1, Episode 6: [Egeria](#) Original Air Date—2 October 2005

Caesar pursued Pompey to Greece but the tide has turned and it's Caesar who is on the run. He contacts Mark Antony, who he left in charge in Rome, to come and join him with the 13th Legion but Antony seems to be in no hurry. Vorenus has re-enlisted in Antony's Legion and he and Niobe have begun to renew their marital relationship. The presence of Niobe's sister is the only sour note in their house. Pullo meanwhile continues to train young Octavian in the use of arms and the boy's mother Atia is so pleased with his development that she decides he should take another step to manhood and orders Pullo to take him to a brothel so he can have his first sexual experience. Atia also continues with her scheming ways and believing that Caesar is done for, decides she had better make friends with Servilia.

## Rome: Detailed Episode Synopses

### **Season 1, Episode 8: [Caesarion](#)** Original Air Date—16 October 2005

Brutus gets a chilly reception from Servilia when he returns home from Greece. In Egypt, Caesar rebukes the advisers of the boy king, Ptolemy XIII, for their presumption in eliminating Pompey and demands the man who killed him. Caesar decides to intervene in the dispute between Ptolemy and his sister-wife, Cleopatra, to ensure both Rome's grain supply and his own access to Egypt's treasure. Antony, in an unusual show of prudence, advises against this with only half a legion in Alexandria and Cato and Scipio still at large in Africa. Caesar sends Vorenus and Pullo to rescue Cleopatra from house-arrest and escort her to Alexandria. Upon meeting Vorenus and Pullo, the narcissistic, opium-smoking teenage Cleopatra decides that her only hope of survival is to seduce Caesar and she compels Vorenus and Pullo to help smuggle her into the city first by unsuccessfully attempting to seduce Vorenus, but she has better luck with Pullo. Servilia's relationship with Octavia deepens beyond friendship into a passionate lesbian tryst. Caesar is besieged in Alexandria by the Egyptians loyal to Ptolemy. Back in Rome, Antony greets Brutus and Cicero on the floor of the deserted Senate and makes Cicero a promise to kill him if he ever turns against him.

## DISC IV

### **Season 1, Episode 9: [Utica](#)** Original Air Date—30 October 2005

The defeated Cato and Scipio fall back on the African city of Utica after the Battle of Thapsus where they decide to end it all. Caesar, after two years of fighting in Greece and Egypt, returns to Rome and receives a hero's welcome. Meanwhile, Servilia's cold rage against the Julii clan makes Brutus's submission to Caesar even more painful. Octavian returns home from military school and Caesar, impressed with his nephew's incisive political acumen, appoints him a pontiff despite his youth. Having opened and operated a profitable butcher shop, Niobe and Lyde get the reluctant Vorenus and Pullo to join the trade, but Vorenus again crosses paths with the thug Erastes, now the crime lord of the Aventine. Learning of Caesar's secret "affliction," Servilia persuades her lover Octavia to cajole her brother into revealing more, but she only learns Niobe's secret instead. Servilia motivates Octavia to try again by other means, with dreadful consequences for both sister and brother. Pullo's affection for his slave Eirene deepens. Enraged at Servilia's manipulation of her children, Atia enlists Timon and his band of thugs to retaliate, thus escalating the term 'catfight' to a very different level.

### **Season 1, Episode 10: [Triumph](#)** Original Air Date—6 November 2005

The price of Caesar's mercy: Cicero nominates Caesar to an unprecedented ten-year dictatorship and Brutus speaks in support of the motion. With martial authority and Niobe at his side, Vorenus campaigns for magistrate under Posca's advice, but is shocked to learn from Posca that Caesar has already fixed the election in Vorenus's favor. Meanwhile, Atia continues her humiliation of Servilia while denying any involvement in her assault. But Atia becomes troubled by the silent depression of Octavia after Octavian compels her to return home from the cloister where she had fled. As Servilia lies at home shattered by her recent attack, she soon revives and gets her self-confidence back when she takes in the homeless and embittered Quintus Pompey whom she sees as her tool for revenge against Caesar for leaving her. As Caesar prepares for his Triumph involving five days of celebration and games, Antony finds that the dictator has no sense of humor about the trappings of power. The circulation of a denunciation of Caesar, signed by Brutus, fascinates Rome but stuns Brutus, who suspects his mother. Denied permission to march with the Thirteenth in the Triumph, the dejected Pullo resolves to make a new life as a civilian with Eirene, but his dream leads only to horror for the Vorenii and utter wretchedness for himself.

## DISC V

### **Season 1, Episode 11: [The Spoils](#)** Original Air Date—13 November 2005

Rejected by Vorenus and Eirene and racked by guilt for the killing of Eirene's fiancé out of a jealous rage, Pullo has sunk to working as an assassin for the gangster Erastes. When Pullo gets arrested for killing one of Caesar's popular opponents, he condemns himself by refusing to name who hired him, despite Octavian's attempts to defend him. Meanwhile, Vorenus finds his new official duties as magistrate tedious, especially when he gets caught between Caesar and the demands made by veterans' spokesman Mascias. Niobe revels in the prestige of Vorenus's office until Caesar invites the Voreni to a symposium at Atia's house. Despite Servilia's surreptitious propaganda depicting Brutus as a tyrant-killer, and the urgings of Cassius and his own doubts, Brutus resists turning against Caesar. Antony makes his move to win back Atia. On the point of death in a gladiator arena, Pullo finds a new reason to live that yet again puts Vorenus in a tight spot. Also, Caesar makes a move that compels the conflicted Brutus to make up his mind to turn against Caesar.

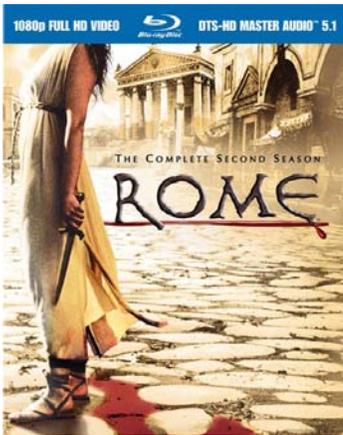
### **Season 1, Episode 12: [Kalends of February](#)**

Original Air Date—20 November 2005

Vorenus' defense of Caesar lands him in an unexpected position of power within Rome. Meanwhile, Servilia hurls the final obstacle in her ambitious and complex revenge plan against Atia.

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## Rome: Detailed Episode Synopses



### DISC I

#### Season 2, Episode 1: [Passover](#) Original Air Date—14 January 2007

Picking up exactly where Season One left off on the Ides of March, 44 BC, Caesar has been assassinated, stabbed to death, and his bloody corpse lays in the senate. The rapidly spreading news shocks the city. Even consul Marc Antony must run to the safety of Atia's house where he swears to take bloody revenge on Caesar's murderers, but for the time flees with Caesar's family to the north. But Octavian keeps a cooler head than his mother. Calpurnia insists on the private reading of Caesar's will, which names Gaius Octavian as his adopted son and full heir and makes a gift to each citizen while freeing Posca (the slave who reads it out) with a stipend, but they must fear a rightful tyrannicide will be declared allowing full confiscation. Octavian points out legally declaring Caesar a tyrant would also invalidate all his deeds, including mandates held from him, so Brutus' followers have an interest in a full pardon instead. Hearing about Vorenus' accidental killing of Niobe, Pullo rushes to his aid. Meanwhile, Cicero first congratulates Brutus's side, then

pays his respects to surprise visitor Marc Antony who presses Octavian's legal logic means elections are necessary, claims Caesar's popular following and offers stability by a deal: Caesar is to be given a state funeral, the republic simply resumes and all terms of office continue. Despite Cicero's suggestion to kill Antony instead, Brutus accepts. Romans massively attend Caesar's funeral pyre; after the speeches, Brutus who was too cerebral is clearly out of popular favor, inspiring retort Marc Antony in. Elsewhere, Vorenus reclaims his children with Pullo, and kills Flavio and his master who admits having raped and killed them.

#### Season 2, Episode 2: [Son of Hades](#) Original Air Date—21 January 2007

Even though his wife and children are avenged by the Erastes killing, Lucius Vorenus keeps mourning for over a month till Pullo gets Marc Antony who scolds him for Caesar's death and the continuing bloody Aventine gang riots that have resulted in the gangs wanting to fill the void left by Erastes' sudden demise. Octavian is losing patience with Marc Antony for payment of Caesar's inheritance. Meanwhile, Queen Cleopatra of Egypt arrives in Rome to pay her respects to Caesar and she also negotiates with Antony's military protection for her Pharaonic throne in exchange for valuable grain shipments. But she gets dismissed as a whore when she demands that her four-year-old son, Caesarion, be recognized as Caesar's legal son. Yet the uninvited pair of them is welcomed by Antony at Atia's party. Abusing a truce in the name of the goddess Concord and smashing up her statue, Vorenus imposes as 'son of Hades' on the gang captains a peace, paid off by Antony so trade and politics on and near the Aventine no longer get disrupted. After his mother Atia and sister Octavia tell him to accept Antony denying Caesar's legacy and laugh at his ambition to provide Rome the leadership it needs, Octavian borrows against his vast inheritance to buy popularity by paying for Caesar's lavish bequests to the populace; Antony violently refuses a political deal with him. Octavian then leaves home and retires to Campania with General Agrippa. Cicero and Brutus' mother, Servilia, hope this strife among the Julii clan will allow their party to return to Rome. Also, Timon's long-lost brother, Levi, arrives back in Rome wanting his help to make a new life for himself.

### DISC II

#### Season 2, Episode 3: [These Being the Words of Marcus Tullius Cicero](#) Original Air Date—28 January 2007

Lucius Vorenus, the power-hungry "Son of Hades", controls the Aventine but practices a pointless, beastly reign of terror, coming down hard on gang captains for futilities, and nearly ruins his friendship with Pullo, whose efforts to calm things down are mistaken for disrespect and disobedience, even starts a fight once he learns the truth about Niobe; Pullo leaves Rome disgusted. After Atia convinces Marc Antony the governorship of ghastly Macedonia after his consulate would not only be unpleasant but leave him exposed to his dangerous enemies, he puts the heat on senatorial leader Cicero to give him Gaul instead, which once was the base for Julius Caesar's coup d'état. The slave Duro endures male prostitution but most arrogantly demands extra pay and even a kiss from Servilia as it will take more time to commit the planned murder in Atia's home. Marc promises Atia not to hurt Octavian, whose recruiting he calls a joke, after putting down his party's expected plot. Brutus has a hard time controlling himself while soliciting the Bithynian king's financial support to raise an army. Instead of proposing Antony for governor of Gaul, Cicero sends an extremely insulting speech and joins Octavian's growing army.

#### Season 2, Episode 4: [Testudo et Lepus \(The Tortoise and the Hare\)](#) Original Air Date—4 February 2007

Having learned that Vorenus' children are alive, Pullo sets off to find him in Gaul where he is again a serving soldier in Mark Antony's army. He had hoped to arrive before Octavian and Antony's armies meet in battle. Too late however, he is forced to find what is left of Antony's army in the mountains. He finds Vorenus alive and well, if somewhat battle worn, and they set off to find the children. The victorious Octavian plans his return to Rome. In Western Turkey, Brutus and Cassius amass their own army, now 9 Legions strong. In Rome, Servilia's attempt to kill Atia fails and Atia has her kidnapped tortured beyond what even her henchman Timon can stand.

## Rome: Detailed Episode Synopses

### DISC III

#### **Season 2, Episode 5: [Heroes of the Republic](#)** Original Air Date—11 February 2007

Vorenus and Pullo return to the Collegium in Rome with Vorenus' family, but some of the "changes" that Pullo had warned him about regarding his two daughters Vorena both the Elder and Younger, as well as his wife's son, begin to manifest themselves into hostility and resentment. But Vorenus is completely oblivious to this, and is too blissfully happy to return to the role of 'father'. Meanwhile, Octavian finally returns and manages to negotiate the Senate Consul's seat from a scheming Cicero, but in spite of his promise to 'faithfully follow' the older man's counsel, Octavian proves that he certainly has a mind of his own, vowing to hunt down and kill the assassins of Julius Caesar, much to Cicero's consternation. Elsewhere, Brutus and Cassius receive news that might prove useful in staging a triumphant return to Rome, as well as the ultimate defeat of both Mark Antony and Octavian's forces. Also, Atia has a reunion with her son that is strained to say the least, but there is a tentative reconciliation between them. And another, much less stressful reunion between two lovers, Octavia and Agrippa, who saves her from an attempted date-rape at an orgy party, will bring about an unforeseen alliance between two formerly mortal enemies.

#### **Season 2, Episode 6: [Philippi](#)** Original Air Date—18 February 2007

Cicero is finally undone by his duplicity in the form of Titus Pullo, acting upon Octavian's request to assassinate all supporters of Brutus in Rome. Pullo and Vorenus enjoy a happy if counterfeit outing with their families in the countryside to hide their assassin mission. Vorena the Elder's dangerous dalliance with one of Mimeo's men continues, and the torrid affair between Octavia and Agrippa escalates. Atia's casual cruelty to ask for the assassination of people she doesn't like results in complete disaster for Octavia's friend Jocasta. Elsewhere, the headstrong Levi engages Timon in a plan to assassinate King Herod by recruiting in the synagogue where they worship. Disastrously outmanned, Brutus and Cassius engage the combined legions of Mark Antony and Octavian, and confront their fates in the ferocious battle at Philippi.

### DISC IV

#### **Season 2, Episode 7: [Death Mask](#)** Original Air Date—4 March 2007

Inconsolable at the death of Brutus at Philippi, Servilia makes her final bid to gain the ultimate vengeance against Atia. Meanwhile, Eirene and Gaia have a major falling-out, prompting Eirene to demand that Pullo properly chastise the slave. When he does, the dynamic between the two of them changes in a violent and unexpected fashion. King Herod engages Mark Antony as a reluctant ally by offering a generous gift of 20,000 pounds of gold, and when Posca is excluded from sharing in the windfall, he engineers a move behind-the-scenes that will once again strain the uneasy truce between Octavian and Antony. Vorenus' eldest daughter, Vorena, is blackmailed by Mascius into spying on her father after her tryst with one of his men is discovered. The end of two love affairs and a marriage in the house of Julii have major ramifications for life in the city and on the Aventine when Octavian insists on the courtship between Octavia and Mark Antony which irks both Atia and Agrippa. Also, a desperate move to assassinate Herod finishes the relationship between contentious siblings Timon and Levi when they have a falling out, and Levi gets killed by accident.

#### **Season 2, Episode 8: [A Necessary Fiction](#)** Original Air Date—11 March 2007

Octavian takes a new bride, Livia, and then introduces her to his family in a startling way... by having her witness the punishment he metes out to Atia and Octavia, for secretly defying the social constraints established through the facade of Octavia's "marriage" to Mark Antony. The vengeful Gaia carries out her plan to poison Eirene, which produces most dire consequences for Pullo, and no one else is the wiser. Meanwhile, Octavian, Antony, Maecenas, and their associates barely maintain their relationships of congenial contempt and hypocrisy, as everyone tries to figure out who has duped whom with the disappearance of the gold that was Herod's 'gift.' Now forced by Octavian to leave Rome to serve as an 'ambassador' to Egypt, Antony defies the conditions of Atia's house arrest to bid her a bittersweet farewell. The same can be said of Agrippa, who learns some startling news as he severs his relationship with Octavia. Timon also decides to move with his family to Judia to start a new life over for themselves. With the theft of the gold, Lucius and Pullo suspect and accuse a badly-wounded Mascius of having engineered a double-cross, but the real traitor of Vorenus' gang comes to shocking light which is the eldest Vorena. Now having pinpointed Memmio as the real culprit, Pullo takes the group to meet for a parlay with the devious captain and his cohorts, resulting in swift and bloody retribution for the traitors. A despondent Vorenus, his family fractured once again, begs Antony to allow him to come to Egypt, and finds his offer grudgingly accepted. Antony returns to Egypt and is reunited with the seductive Cleopatra.

## Rome: Detailed Episode Synopses

### DISC V

#### **Season 2, Episode 9: Deus Impeditio Esuritori Nullus (No God Can Stop a Hungry Man)** Original Air Date—18 March 2007

Seven years have passed since Antony's departure from Rome, and the former commander, dissipated and debauched - held in thrall by the charms and sexual prowess of his new bride, Cleopatra, withholds precious shipments of grain from Rome, where people die in the streets from hunger. Unable to incite a war with Antony and Egypt without committing political suicide, Octavian sends Atia and Octavia to Alexandria to mediate and reason with Antony; a strategy which proves predictably unsuccessful. However, former Roman senator Posca and his wife, Jocasta, flee Alexandria with Aita and Octavia to Rome where he provides Octavian with all the ammunition he needs to bring about a war with Antony and Cleopatra. Meanwhile, Pullo has taken over the Avantine gangs of Rome. But later, a fatal blow is stricken to the torrid affair that has continued between Pullo and Gaia, as karmic debt comes to call when she saves him from the sadistic Memmino, but gets fatally wounded, and she lets it slip to Pullo that she was the one who poisoned Eirene. Octavian asks Pullo to join him in the campaign against Egypt, and Pullo agrees without question, hoping to reunite and redeem his blood brother, Vorenus, who continues to stand by Antony's side despite his growing contempt for his commander. Octavian calls for war against Antony in the Senate, and is met with thunderous approval.

#### **Season 2, Episode 10: De Patre Vostro (About Your Father)** Original Air Date—25 March 2007

In the series final, following his his crushing naval defeat at Actium by Agrippa's forces, Mark Antony realizes that this spells the end for him and Cleopatra. With a hardened Octavian refusing to be bullied, shamed or negotiated from his terms of taking them into custody, which will lead to public humiliation and ultimately death, there is but one choice left. Following the capture of Alexandria signaling the fall of Egypt and end of the war, Antony chooses the only honorable fate for a former Roman, and turns to his steadfast second and friend, Lucius Vorenus, for assistance. A final, desperate, duplicitous act affects Antony's demise, as Cleopatra hopes to buy time for herself and the lives of her twin children by Anthony. One face-to-face meeting with Octavian proves how fruitless her efforts of seduction are, and Cleopatra joins her lover in death by suicide. Above Octavian's suspicion, Titus Pullo and Lucius Vorenus whisk Cleopatra's eldest son, Caesarion, away from Egypt, but not without running into trouble, leaving Lucius gravely wounded. Keeping his promise to his friend, Titus takes Lucius back to Rome to the Collegium in just enough time for him to reunite and reconcile with his children before he passes away. A jubilant coronation is held for Octavian, as the spoils of war from Egypt's defeat are paraded through the streets of Rome... including the encased bodies of Antony and Cleopatra. Atia is left to contemplate the emptiness of all her ambitions achieved and the finality of Servilia's curse as her goal to achieve social high-ranking status has been done, but at the bittersweet cost of loneliness and further tension with her son's wife Livia. Stolen glances between Agrippa and Octavia hint that their romantic bond may not be broken after all. Afterwards, Pullo meets with Octavian and lies to him about killing Caesarion. Pullo then meets with the boy and strides down a street with Caesarion, whom he takes under his wing as his own son (under the alias Aeneas), who finally learns the truth about his parentage, as we take in our last glimpse of them and of ROME... finally stable and at peace.