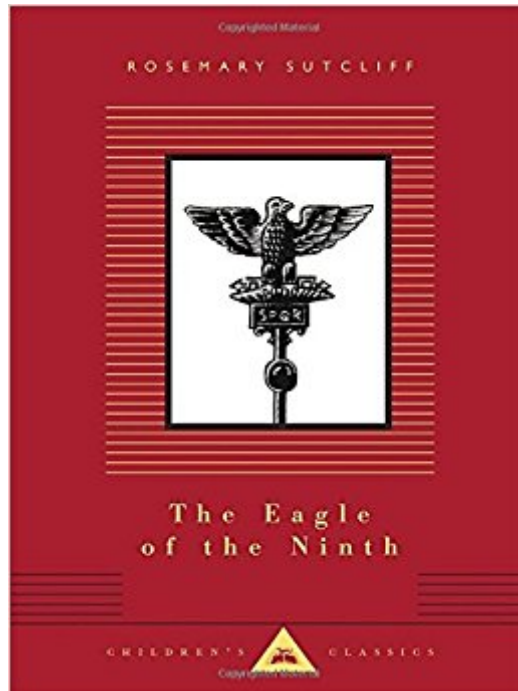




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# The Eagle Of The Ninth (Everyman's Library Children's Classics Series)



## Synopsis

This indispensable classic, Rosemary Sutcliff's *The Eagle of the Ninth*--an adventure story that unfolds in Roman Britain, published in 1954--set the standard for all historical fiction for children that came after. EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY CHILDREN'S CLASSICS. In the second century AD, the Ninth Legion marched into northern Britain to suppress a rebellion of the Caledonian tribes and was never heard from again. The young Roman officer Marcus Aquila sets off on a perilous journey to find out what happened to the legion in which his father served, and--if possible--to salvage its eagle and its honor. Accompanying him is Esca, his freed slave, with whom he gradually develops a deep and remarkable friendship that crosses the boundaries of conquest and colonialism. An unforgettable story of adventure, humanity, and the mysteries of the past.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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

ROSEMARY SUTCLIFF was born in Surrey, England, in 1920, the daughter of a British naval officer. She was the author of four works of nonfiction, an autobiography, four novels for adults, and more than fifty books for children, including the eight volumes of the *Eagle of the Ninth* series. Sutcliff won many literary awards, including the Carnegie Medal for *The Lantern Bearers*, and received an OBE and a CBE for her services to children's literature. She died in 1992. CYRIL

WALTER HODGES (1909-2004) was an English book illustrator at the height of a distinguished career in the 1950s and '60s when he illustrated some of Sutcliff's early works. Hodges was a leading scholar of the Elizabethan theater and himself the author of a number of books including *Columbus Sails* and *Shakespeare's Theatre*, which he also illustrated.

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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