

IDUS  
MARTIAE

A LATIN NOVELLA

ANDREW OLIMPI

REVISED EDITION



# STORYBASE

• BOOKS •

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Peachtree Corners, GA

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## PROLOGUS

*ōmen malum*



pater et filius prope **āram** stābant. erat diēs sacrificiī. prope illōs erat magnus **bōs**. filius, nōmine Roscus, oculōs bōvī spectābat. putābat oculōs bōvī esse trīstēs.

*bōs est innocēns! bōs nōn vult sacrificārī!*



“Rosce!”

ōmen: *an omen, sign*

āram: *an altar*

bōs: *a bull*



pater, nōmine  
Spurrīna, filium  
clāmābat.

haruspex: a  
priest who  
"reads" the  
innards of  
animals

exta: intestines,  
innards

sanguinem:  
blood

Spurrīna erat **haruspex**.  
haruspex poterat vidēre ēventūs  
futūrōs. haruspex animālia sacrificāvit  
ut **exta** īnspectāret. in extīs animālium  
haruspex poterat vidēre ēventūs  
futūrōs.

Spurrīna volēbat Roscum esse  
haruspicem. filius eius autem nōlēbat  
animālia sacrificāre, quia animālia eī  
placēbant. Roscus quoque **sanguinem**  
timēbat.

Spurrīna (magnā vōce): "ō  
Rosce! nōlī sacrificium timēre! spectā  
mē!"

in manū haruspicis erat . . .



**pūgiō.**

pūgiō: *a dagger*

Roscus: “ō pater, timeō spectāre . . . sed ego spectābō . . . omnia.”

Roscus autem falsō dīxit. quia nōlēbat spectāre patrem, oculōs **clausit.**

clausit: *closed*

subitō Roscus audīvit bovem clāmāntem et ūnum oculum **aperuit.** pūgiō haruspicis erat in **collō** bōvī! ō horrōrem! sanguis erat in terrā, in bove, in pūgiōne, et in manibus haruspicis!

aperuit: *opened*

collō: *neck*

Roscus timidus iterum oculōs clausit.

*nōlō spectāre! bōs est innocēns!  
nōlō esse haruspex!*

*nōlō sacrificāre animālia  
innocentia!*

pater vidēbat oculōs clausōs  
filiī.

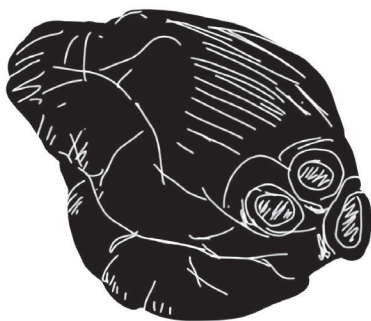
“Rōsce! Rōsce! aperī oculōs et  
spectā!”

vōx patris nōn erat irāta.  
Spurrīna erat ānxius. cūriōsus Roscus  
oculōs aperuit.

cor: *the heart*

“**cor** . . . cor . . .” pater ānxius  
dīcēbat.

Rosculus: “cor?”





Spurrīna: “quid vidēs?”

“sanguinem videō, ō pater,”  
Roscius respondit, “bovem mortuum  
videō.”

Spurrīnā: “īspectā cor bōvī.”

Roscius, corpus bōvī īspectāns,  
nōn poterat vidēre cor.

Roscius: “ubi est cor, ō pater?”

Spurrīna: “bōvī . . . **bōvī nōn  
est** cor.”

bōvī nōn est:  
*there is not to  
the bull, the bull  
does not have*

Roscius: “bōvī nōn est cor?  
impossibile est!”

Spurrīnā: “ō Rosce! ego sciō  
esse impossibile! sed bōvī nōn est cor.”

Roscius attonitus nōn poterat  
respondēre.

“est **ōmen**, ō Rosce!” Spurrīna  
inquit, “ōmen malum!”

ōmen: *an omen,  
sign*

Roscius: “**quid significat** hoc  
ōmen malum, ō pater?”

quid significat:  
*what does (this  
bad omen)  
signify, mean?*

perīculō: *danger*

respondit Spurrīna: “Rōma est  
in magnō **perīculō.**”



## **About Storybase Books**

Storybase Books publishes books that help beginners learn Latin and Greek by reading.

Our novellas use limited vocabulary to tell engaging stories that are accessible to novice- and intermediate-level readers. Meanings for many words are provided in footnotes, and a full index of all words, word forms, and phrases is included in each novella. Readers can thus read each novella on their own, with others, or with a class.

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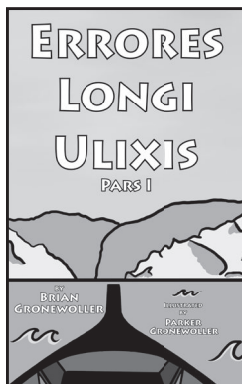
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## Novellas for Latin I

### Ego, Polyphemus

by Andrew Olimpi

Polyphemus the Cyclops' life is pretty simple: he looks after his sheep, hangs out in his cave, writes (horrible) poetry, and eats his cheese . . . until one day a ship arrives on his peaceful island, bringing with it invaders and turning his peaceful world upside down.



### Errores Longi Ulixis, Pars I

by Brian Gronewoller

Illustrated by Parker Gronewoller

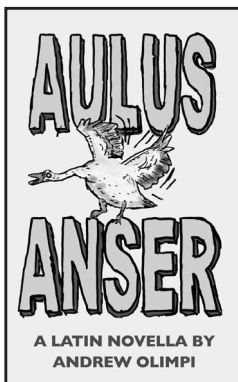
After ten years of war the Greeks have finally conquered Troy and are ready to sail home. Their actions following the victory, however, have angered Neptune and Minerva. And Odysseus (Ulysses), Eurylochus, and Elpenor are about to learn that angry gods and goddesses can turn a brief cruise across the Mediterranean into a long adventure as they wander through unknown lands filled with strange fruit, cannibals, and monsters.

### Aulus Anser

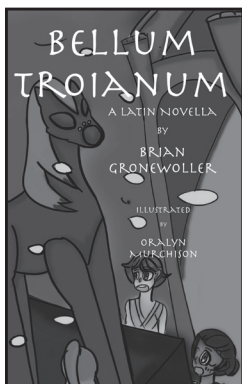
by Andrew Olimpi

Aulus is a goose who lives in ancient Rome on the Capitoline Hill. As one of Juno's sacred geese, his job is to eat his food while the priests carefully observe his actions, looking for good or bad omens.

One day when the Gauls arrive to invade Rome, Aulus thinks that he is responsible—he didn't eat his food and has therefore brought bad fortune to the city! Driven by guilt, he wants to help fix the problem he thinks he created. But what can a little goose do to help defend the Romans against the invaders?



## Novellas for Latin II



### **Bellum Troianum**

by Brian Gronewoller  
Illustrated by Oralyn Murchison

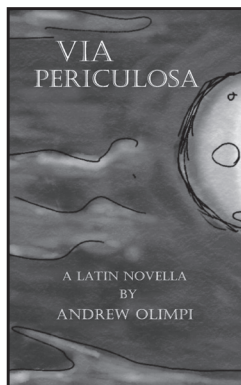
The gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus are enjoying themselves at a party when, suddenly, an apple addressed "to the most beautiful" appears in their midst. The ensuing fight for the apple between Juno, Minerva, and Venus soon spills over to earth and pulls Paris, Helen, Menelaus, Agamemnon, Hector, and Achilles into ten years of war between Greece and Troy.

### **Via Periculosa**

by Andrew Olimpi

Niceros is a Greek slave on the run in ancient Italy, avoiding capture, and seeking his one true love, Melissa. However, a chance encounter at an inn sets in motion a harrowing chain of events that lead to murder, mayhem, mystery, and a bit of magic.

Loosely adapted from the Roman author Petronius, *Via Periculosa* is an exciting and surprising supernatural thriller suitable for Latin readers in their early years of study.

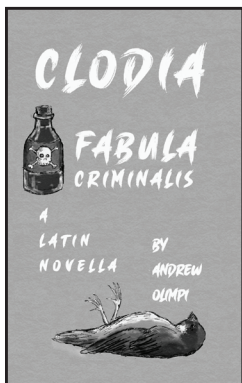


### **Clodia: Fabula Criminalis**

by Andrew Olimpi

"I love you and I hate you at the same time."

Love, lies, betrayal, extortion . . . just another day in the life of Clodia, a wealthy Roman woman who will do anything to get what she wants. When she spots a handsome young poet named Catullus at a dinner party, this chance encounter sparks a whirlwind romance. Rather than leading to a fairy-tale ending, however, this relationship brings only heartache, jealousy, and murder.



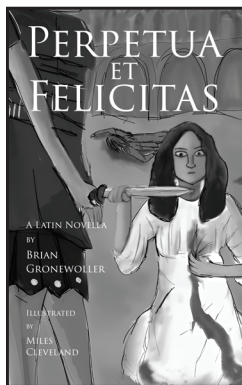
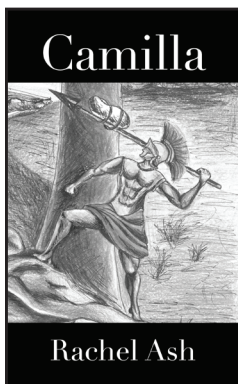
## Novellas for Latin III and Up

### Camilla, 2nd ed.

by Rachel Ash

Camilla runs with the nymphs and hunts better than most men. She is nearly invincible in the battlefield, and it seems she cannot miss with either arrow or spear. Raised in the woods by her father, only her great beauty sets her apart from the men she fights beside.

Camilla's fate, like her father's, is bound in the quest for glory. She can remain home, companion to the goddess Diana, or seek to become part of a legend. What will Camilla choose?



### Perpetua et Felicitas

by Brian Gronewoller

Illustrated by Miles Cleveland

Perpetua and Felicity are young women living in Roman North Africa with their whole lives ahead of them . . . until they find themselves in a Roman prison cell.

Based on the *Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis* (*The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*), one of the most influential and famous martyr narratives in the Christian tradition, this Latin novella reimagines their stories for low- to mid-intermediate readers of Latin.

### Vox in Tenebris

by Andrew Olimpi

Lucanus, a Roman citizen travelling through Greece, has a big problem: he is far from home, broke, and desperate to make some quick money.

A job opportunity soon comes his way, with a big reward: one hundred gold coins! The catch? Lucanus has to stay up all night with the dead body of a prominent citizen. Lucanus takes the job, even though he's heard the stories that citizens of the town whisper: tales of witches, ruthless and bloodthirsty, who wander the streets after the sun goes down.

