

**THE GLADIATOR, A
TALE OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE**

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The Gladiator, a Tale of the Roman Empire by Martha Macdonald Lamont

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MARTHA MACDONALD LAMONT

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THE GLADIATOR.

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THE
GLADIATOR,

A
TALE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

BY MARTHA MACDONALD LAMONT.

He recked not of the life he lost, nor prize;
But where his rude last by the Danube lay
He sees the wild barbarians,—and he,
Butchered to make a Roman holiday!—
————— Shall he expire,
And unavenged?—Arise, ye Goths, and glut your ire!

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1849.



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HISTORICAL NOTICE.

THE events of the following narrative occurred during the reigns of Septimus Severus and Caracalla. Its hero was carried to Rome soon after the accession of Severus to the imperial throne. By the death of Commodus, the elevation and murder of Pertinax, and the public sale of the empire to Didius Julianus, the prætorian guards had fearfully shown the strength of the military and the weakness of the civil power. They were restrained for a short time by Severus; but after his death, and that of his fratricide son, Caracalla, we behold successively clothed with the imperial purple, by the strong hand of a licentious soldiery, Macrinus and his son, Heliogabalus, Alexander Severus, Maximus, the two Gordians in Africa, Maximus and Balbinus in Rome, the younger Gordian, and the Arab, Philip. It is at the time of the celebration of the secular games by this last, that the narrator commences his story, which he addresses to the virtuous Claudius Tacitus, who some years later became emperor.

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BOYHOOD.

Jamque dies adest quem semper acerbum
Sic Dii voluistis habere.

VIRGIL.