



OF SAND AND BLOOD

No one is a friend, only a potential opponent.

MICHAEL ROYEA

A Greek youth is captured by Roman soldiers near his home in Thessaly and brought to Italy to be executed by gladiator in the arena. In desperation, he kills the gladiator and is claimed by the owner of a gladiatorial school. Renamed the Greek, he is forced to fight for survival but displays an uncanny ability with the swords, a passion for the adulation of the fans, and a lust to kill. Set in Italy in the first century AD, *Of Sand and Blood* shares a realistic view of the bloody world of the gladiator where no one is a friend, only a potential opponent. Far from the glamorous world of highly trained athletes gladiators were, in the words of an ex-gladiator, “pigs prepared for slaughter for the entertainment of the masses.”

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Michael Royea received a Bachelor's degree in Classical Studies and Fine Arts in 1991 from Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec and a Master's Degree in Classical Archaeology in 1994 from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He began teaching part-time at Bishop's in September 1995. Since that time, he has created a Minor in archaeology, developed several new courses, and, in 2004, introduced travel courses, first to the American Southwest and then to Greece.

In 2014, Michael's first book, entitled *The Grand Circle Tour: A Travel and Reference Guide to the American Southwest and the Ancient Peoples of the Colorado Plateau*, was published by the Countryman Press in Woodstock Vermont. This guide is based on the travel course to the southwest. His first novel, *The Key of Theseus*, published by TouchPoint Press in 2017, is set on Crete and deals with the ancient Minoan culture.



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