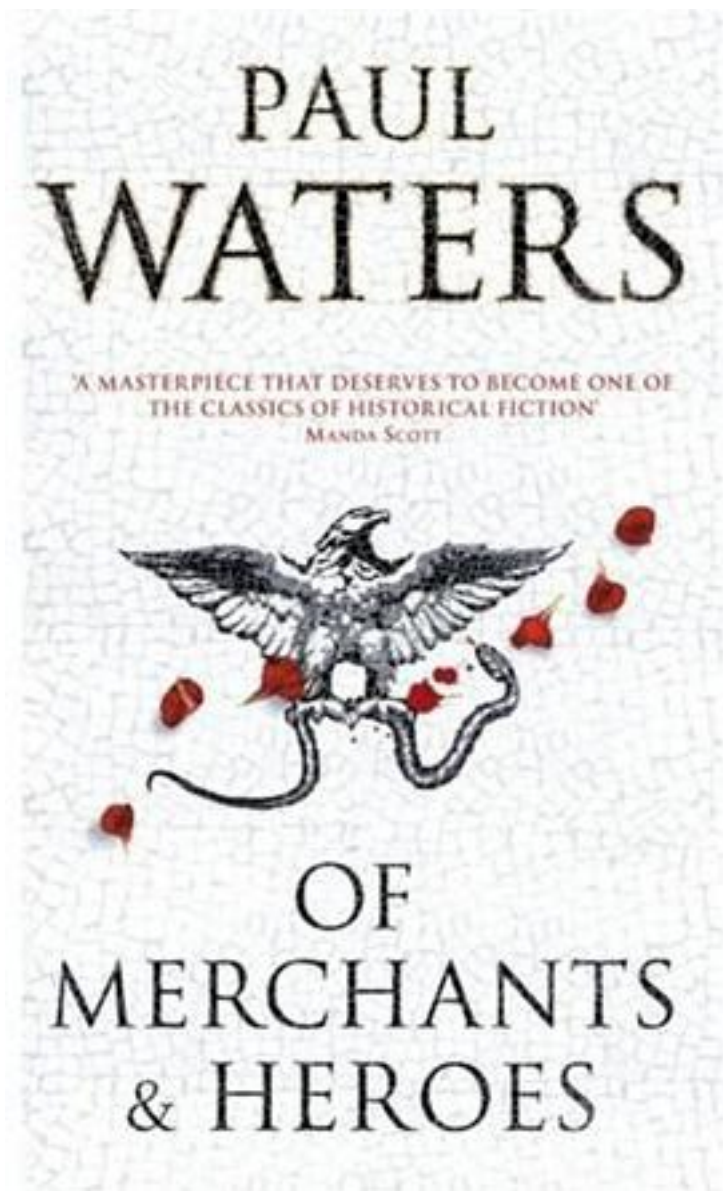


Of Merchants & Heroes



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A consuming story of love, loss and redemption set in the classical world of Rome and Greece, *Of Merchants & Heroes* is the story of a young man's pursuit of his father's murderer and of the values and qualities he develops that will make him a man ...a man capable of a deep, noble and enduring love. At the end of the third century BC, as Republican Rome's long war with Carthage was at last drawing to a close, it was already threatened by a new enemy, Philip, the tyrant king of Macedon in the east. Thus begins Rome's long involvement with Greek civilization, from which it is to learn so much ...Into this turbulent world emerges our Roman hero, Marcus, whose father is brutally murdered by pirates on a journey from Italy to Corfu on a visit to his uncle. Fate takes him to some of the great cities of the Greco-Roman world at a time of major turbulence, where he learns much and finds love unexpectedly. This is a remarkable, beautifully written debut that explores political and philosophical questions that are timeless democracy and tyranny, war and self-defence, right and duty as well as questions of love, loyalty and betrayal.

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