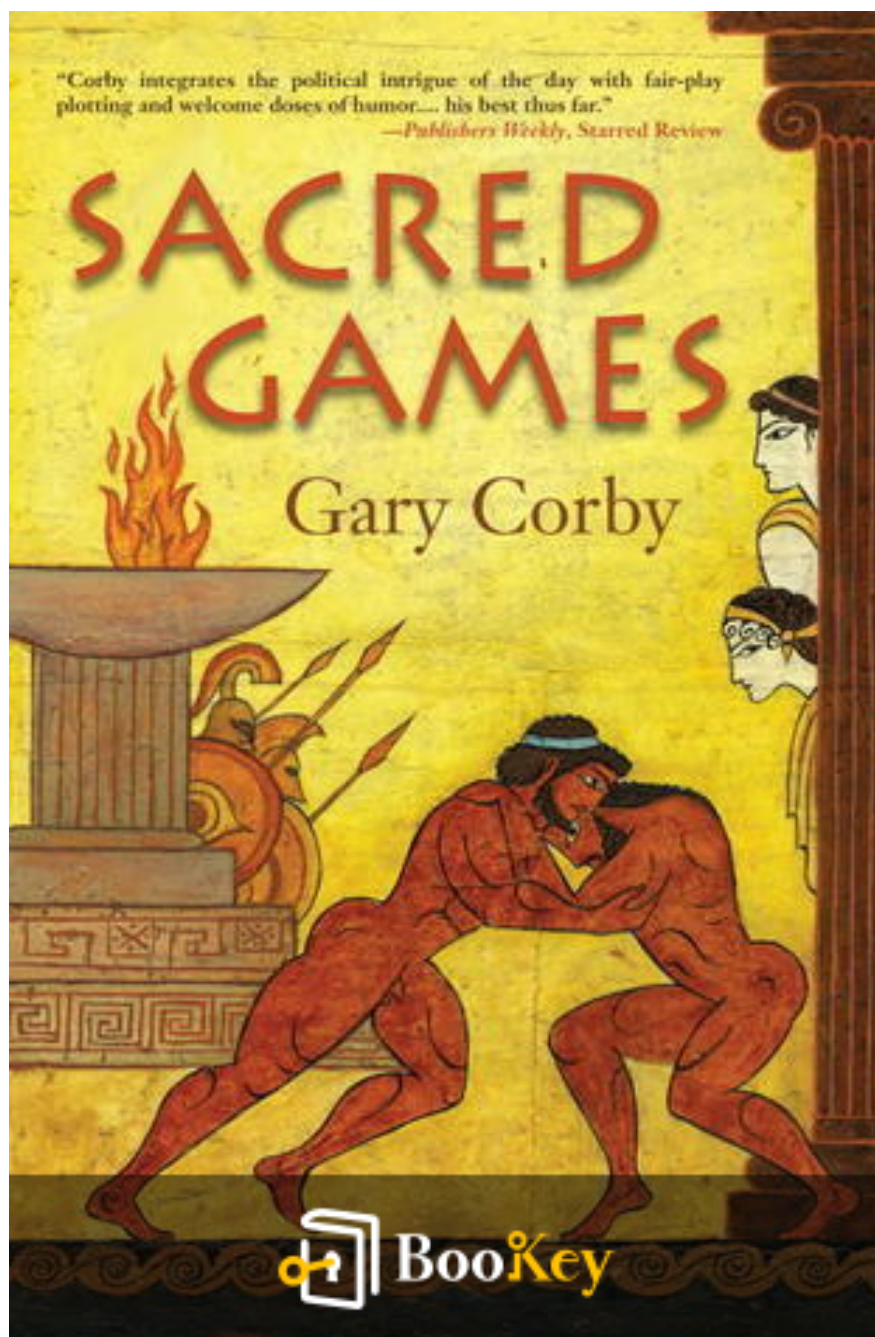


Sacred Games PDF (Limited Copy)

Gary Corby



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Sacred Games Summary

Unraveling a deadly conspiracy amidst the ancient Olympic Games.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In the gripping third installment of the series set in Classical Athens, amateur detective Nicolaos finds himself embroiled in a life-or-death situation during the Olympics of 460 BC. The tension of the Games is heightened as his close friend, Timodemus, competes in pankration, a vicious blend of boxing and wrestling, where physical prowess and cunning are pivotal. However, the festive atmosphere is shattered when Timodemus's fiercest rival, Arakos of Sparta, is discovered dead, leading to a chilling cloud of suspicion that falls on Timodemus.

As the judges act swiftly, they sentence Timodemus to execution—an alarming fate that follows shortly after the Games, reflecting the volatile political climate between Athens and Sparta. A murder conviction of an Athenian for killing a Spartan could spark a catastrophic war, escalating the already precarious relationship between the two city-states.

Faced with an impending crisis, Nicolaos teams up with the insightful priestess Diotima, whose wisdom and understanding of the divine may hold the key to unraveling the mystery. Together, they must race against time to uncover the truth behind Arakos's death, navigate the treacherous waters of Athenian politics, and save Timodemus from a grave injustice. As they delve deeper into the investigation, they uncover hidden motives and secrets that could determine not only the fate of their friend but also the future of their

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About the author

In Gary Corby's captivating series, **The Athenian Mysteries**, set against the backdrop of Classical Athens, readers are introduced to the ambitious young protagonist, Nicolaos. As the son of a minor sculptor, Nico's life is shaped by the bustling energy of the city and his engagements as an agent for the influential politician Pericles, who plays a key role in shaping Athenian democracy and culture.

Throughout the series, Nico finds himself embroiled in a web of intrigue and murder, as political tensions and societal complexities unfold around him. His earnest desire to gain the affection of Diotima, an astute and captivating priestess of Artemis, adds a personal stake to his adventures. Diotima is not just a figure of beauty but a character with depth and wisdom, representing the blend of spirituality and intellect that was significant in Athenian society.

Additionally, Nico's journey is complicated by his relationship with his younger brother, Socrates, a precocious twelve-year-old whose antics often lead to both comedic and challenging situations. The dynamic between the brothers highlights themes of responsibility and sibling bonds amidst their tumultuous environment.

Corby's rich storytelling immerses readers in a historical world filled with vivid characters and layered narratives. The combination of political

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intrigue, personal ambition, and familial relationships creates a tapestry of experiences that reflect the challenges and aspirations of youth in Ancient Athens. Readers are drawn into this vibrant setting where every mystery unraveled offers insight into the cultural and philosophical fabric of Athenian life, making Nico's journey not just a quest for love and safety, but also a deeper exploration of identity and morality in a thriving historical landscape.

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Chapter 1 Summary: DAY 1 OF THE 80 TH OLYMPIAD OF THE SACRED GAMES

Summary of Chapter 1: Sacred Games

The chapter begins amidst the fervor of the 80th Olympiad in Olympia, where a vibrant procession of athletes captivates the crowd. Among the eager spectators is the young Socrates, who is particularly drawn to the violent spectacle of the Games. The atmosphere is charged with both excitement and tension, setting the tone for the events that will unfold.

In this exhilarating context, we are introduced to Arakos, an imposing athlete from Sparta, whose stature commands attention. A key competitor, Timodemus of Athens, emerges as a strong contender in the pankration, a martial contest that mixes wrestling and boxing. However, the mood shifts dramatically when Arakos insults Timodemus, provoking a fierce reaction from Timo, who impulsively attempts to confront the Spartan. This outburst disrupts the solemnity of the ceremonies and raises concerns, not only jeopardizing Timodemus's standing in the competition but also foreshadowing internal conflicts during the Games.

As the ceremonial proceedings continue in the Bouleterion, the Chief Judge



emphasizes the sacred oaths undertaken by judges, athletes, and trainers, highlighting the foundational importance of integrity and honor in the Games. The ramifications of Timo's aggressive behavior weigh heavily on him and his family, particularly on his father, One-Eye, who is desperate for his son's success.

Following the ceremony, a practice competition for heralds reveals Timodemus's inner turmoil as he grapples with the immense pressure placed upon him by his family and city. The earlier confrontation leaves lingering questions about Timo's character and ability to maintain control under stress, prompting concerns about a potential downfall.

The tension escalates dramatically when Arakos is found murdered, his body discovered brutally disfigured in the woods. Timodemus becomes the prime suspect, and the weight of accusation falls upon him as he is identified as the last person seen with the deceased Spartan. The Chief Judge declares dire consequences for Timo, threatening execution unless he can prove his innocence, thrusting him deeper into turmoil.

The chapter culminates with Nicolaos, Timodemus's loyal friend, tasked with investigating the murder and revealing the truth. As he delves into the mystery, Nicolaos faces the intricate political manipulation traipsing between the Athenians and Spartans, underscoring the perilous interplay of friendship, loyalty, and justice. With the stakes higher than ever, the chapter



concludes, leaving readers to ponder how these complex dynamics will unfold amidst the backdrop of the Sacred Games.

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Chapter 2 Summary: DAY 2 OF THE 80 TH OLYMPIAD OF THE SACRED GAMES

In Chapter 2 of "Sacred Games," the story unfolds on a brisk morning at the Olympic Games in Olympia, where tension permeates the atmosphere following the murder of a competitor, Arakos. Young Athenian Nicolaos and his Spartan counterpart, Markos, prepare to take the Olympic Oath, vowing to uphold the integrity of the Games. Nicolaos feels a mix of anxiety while Markos remains poised, reflecting the differing cultures of their city-states: Athens, known for its philosophy and debate, and Sparta, revered for its discipline and military prowess.

The Chief Judge, Exelon, announces a formal investigation into the murder, raising concerns among the gathered spectators. The suspect, Timodemus, is at the center of attention, inciting fear that could lead to chaos among the onlookers. As Exelon calls for both competitors to swear their allegiance to the truth, Nicolaos stumbles but manages to affirm his commitment, while Markos's steady resolve echoes the weight of their task. Their oaths underscore the gravity of their roles in the ongoing events.

As they navigate the tension-filled environment of the chariot races, Nicolaos contemplates the broader implications of Arakos's death. Following the race, they encounter Pindar, an esteemed poet. Through his



wisdom, he hints at the deeper interpersonal rivalries that permeate the competition, suggesting that the stakes involve more than just athleticism; the interplay of jealousy and friendship complicates the narrative.

In parallel, we delve into Nicolaos's family background. His father, Sophroniscus, has reluctantly permitted him to pursue service under the influential leader Pericles, but this comes with the understanding that failure might force him back into the family's sculpting trade. The pressure intensifies as Nicolaos grapples with the moral dilemma of loyalty to his friend Timodemus—who faces trial in four days—against his pursuit of justice.

Nicolaos's younger brother, Socrates, observes the unfolding drama with both admiration and jealousy, encapsulating the complex emotions that bind the brothers. The chapter builds on the intertwining fates of its characters as they navigate the treacherous waters of friendship, loyalty, and political maneuvering between Athens and Sparta.

Ultimately, Nicolaos is steadfast in his quest for the truth, yet he remains unaware of the potentially dangerous paths ahead—paths that threaten not only his friendships but also the fragile peace between their rival city-states. The stakes that have been raised set the stage for a narrative ripe with moral conflict and the enigmatic complexities of human relationships amidst athletic glory.



Chapter 3 Summary: DAY 3 OF THE 80 TH OLYMPIAD OF THE SACRED GAMES

Chapter 3 Summary: A Sacred Gathering and a Mysterious Murder

In the shadow of the ongoing Sacred Games at Olympia, the excitement of the festivities is overshadowed by tension, particularly around the execution of Timodemus, a competitor accused of unspeakable crimes. Nico, our narrator, begins his day amidst the grandeur of an elaborate procession honoring Zeus, featuring the sacrifice of pure-white oxen that symbolize purity and devotion. This atmosphere of celebration is punctuated by the mischief of his younger brother, Socrates, who becomes captivated by Empedocles, an unconventional philosopher known for his advocacy of veganism and beliefs in reincarnation—topics that spark philosophical curiosity in Socrates.

However, the day's joy morphs into anxiety when Socrates mysteriously vanishes yet again. After an anxious search, the brothers reunite just in time to witness a ritual sacrifice, performed with calculated brutality to the cheers of the crowd. This disturbing event leads Nico to confront the emerging shadows surrounding the recent murder of Arakos, a competitor whose untimely demise casts a pall over the games.

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As Nico's allies, Diotima and Markos, delve into the investigation, they explore the motives and possible culprits among the competitors. Their suspicions fall particularly on the Spartan Dromeus and the menacing figure of the krypteia—a secretive Spartan institution known for its ruthlessness—which adds layers of intrigue and danger to their pursuit of truth. Diotima's background reveals connections to a powerful Spartan family, and their encounter with Klymene, the Priestess of the Games, unveils scandalous secrets that intertwine with the murder investigation.

As the investigation progresses, the atmosphere grows thicker with suspicion, jealousy, and hidden agendas, compelling Nico and his friends to sift through testimonies of various competitors who claim to have been cursed by Timodemus. However, the urgency of their quest for answers intensifies when one of Nico's potential informants is discovered dead, his eyes gruesomely mutilated, a brutal manifestation of the sinister conspiracy lurking beneath the Games' surface.

With night descending upon Olympia and the stakes escalating, the urgency to uncover the murderer grows stronger. Nico and his friends must race against time to prevent further bloodshed, unearthing a convoluted web of betrayal and ambition that threatens not only the integrity of the Games but also their lives.



Chapter 4: DAY 4 OF THE 80 TH OLYMPIAD OF THE SACRED GAMES

In Chapter 4 of "Sacred Games," an atmosphere of chaos unfolds during the 80th Olympiad, where rumors of a deadly curse loom over the Games following the discovery of a second murder near the revered Temple of Zeus. The victim's connection to Timodemus, a man accused of murder and linked to accusations of witchcraft and deceit in the Nemean Games, amplifies public panic. As fears mount, tensions rise among competing Greek city-states, transforming Olympia into a battleground where factions hastily construct defenses around their camps.

Pericles, the influential Athenian leader, watches the escalating discord with concern, perceiving the Olympics as a reflection of the broader conflicts that could erupt between the city-states. Simultaneously, the protagonist Nicolaos, often referred to as Nico, finds himself entangled in this turbulent climate. Determined to prove Timodemus's innocence and avert war, he seeks the assistance of the inebriated philosopher Niallos and the sagacious Socrates to investigate the murder. Their search leads them to discover a pivotal piece of evidence—a linchpin from Iphicles's chariot—suggesting deeper machinations at play.

Adding to Nico's turmoil, he grapples with personal issues, particularly the shocking news of Diotima's engagement to Markos, a Spartan, which further



complicates his emotional landscape. When complications arise, Nico visits Timodemus, who prepares for his impending trial with a resolute determination to compete in the brutal pankration, regardless of the trial's outcome.

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Chapter 5 Summary: DAY 5 OF THE 80 TH OLYMPIAD OF THE SACRED GAMES

Chapter 5 Summary of "Sacred Games" by Gary Corby

As the fifth day of the Sacred Games draws to a close, the atmosphere at Olympia is laden with bittersweet emotions. The festivities offer a temporary reprieve from chaos, particularly for Timo, the narrator's friend, who is slowly recovering from life-threatening injuries sustained in a violent incident involving hemlock and a broken leg. Although his dreams of fighting again are dashed, Timo's acceptance of his fate is heartened by the steadfast support of Klymene, who remains devoted to his care despite her own pressing obligations.

Amidst this backdrop, the relationship between the narrator and Diotima deepens as they prepare for their upcoming marriage, which is now officially sanctioned by their fathers. However, the couple faces the amusing yet daunting requirement of holding another ceremony in front of their mothers, creating light-hearted tension.

The chapter takes a darker turn with the grim discovery of Festianos's slain body, found at a sacred altar, casting a shadow over the concluding festivities. This chilling event underscores the unresolved tensions and



violence that threaten to erupt between the Greek city-states.

A pivotal moment occurs when Queen Gorgo of Sparta acknowledges Diotima's successful efforts in preventing a potential war, emphasizing the historical significance of her actions. She presents remnants of a wax tablet that contained a vital warning about an impending Persian attack, symbolizing the weight of shared histories and future alliances among the city-states.

A revealing conversation unfolds between the narrator and Pleistarchus, the Spartan king, who advocates for unity among the fractured Greek city-states. He reminisces about the forgotten camaraderie born from past battles and thanks the couple for their role in averting conflict, stressing the need for cooperative endeavors among Hellenes.

As Diotima and the narrator prepare to depart, they confront a menacing group of Spartans, including Skarithos, intent on seeking retribution for past grievances. The tension reaches a climax as Athenian and Spartan mobs converge, threatening to ignite confrontation. However, just when the situation appears dire, Pindar, a spirited poet, bursts onto the scene, diverting attention with a celebratory song he has composed, honoring the narrator's victory.

Seizing the moment to escape potential violence, the narrator boldly



commandeers a chariot, inviting Diotima to join him. Together, they flee from the chaos, embarking on a thrilling chase back to Athens, symbolizing a bold leap into their uncertain future as a married couple. This exhilarating escape encapsulates both their excitement and the perils that lie ahead in their journey.

Key Themes and Character Developments:

- 1. Resilience in Relationships:** The bond between Diotima and the narrator exemplifies steadfastness amidst personal and societal challenges, as they navigate familial duties and external threats.
- 2. Consequences of Conflict:** The chapter emphasizes the heavy toll of violence and betrayal, embodied in the discovery of Festianos's body and the escalating tensions between the city-states.
- 3. Tradition vs. Change:** Through dialogues with Pleistarchus and Gorgo, the narrative grapples with the tension between preserving tradition and the necessity for progress and unity.
- 4. Courage and Escape:** The narrator's audacious decision to flee in a chariot reflects his bravery and determination to navigate an uncertain future, showcasing his desire to shape his own destiny amidst looming



challenges.

This chapter intricately weaves together personal growth, political tensions, and the intricate dynamics of relationships within the rich historical tapestry of ancient Greece.

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