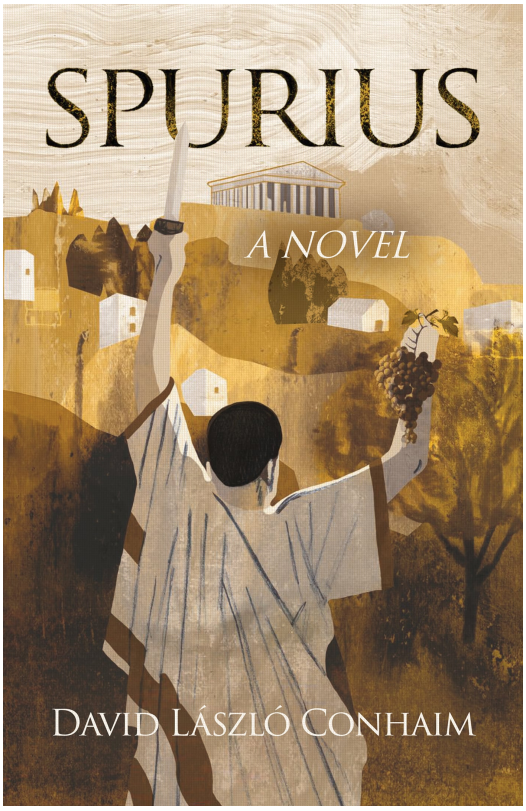
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Spurius, A Novel

Consul of Rome who crushed the cult of Bacchus, 186 BC

David László Conhaim

Illustrated by Jorge González

ISBN	9781836360407
Publisher	Kulturalis
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World
Size	228 mm x 146 mm
Pages	226 Pages
Price	£45.00

- Compelling, erudite and fast-paced ancient historical novel, in the tradition of Robert Graves and Robert Harris
- First-ever treatment of a little-known but fascinating (and troubling) event in Roman Republican history
- Newly commissioned illustrations by award-winning artist Jorge González bring the narrative to vivid life

It is a perilous time for the Roman Republic. Victory over her nemesis Hannibal in the Second Punic War and the subsequent conquest of Greece have led to widespread debauchery and mayhem on the Italian peninsula. Into the breach steps Spurius Postumius Albinus, Consul of Rome in 186 BC, who turns detective to investigate a series of crimes attributed to the cult of the wine god Bacchus that, he argues, threaten the very heart of the State.

Based on events recorded by the Roman historian Livy and confirmed by a surviving bronze plaque in Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum, Spurius is at once an ancient political whodunit and the first major treatment of a cataclysmic event in Roman history: according to Livy, some 3,500 Romans perished in the witch hunts resulting from Spurius' investigation. In its finely balanced examination of freedom of belief and expression, and the manipulation of truth in times of national emergency, the novel has great relevance to today's troubled world.

Kulturalis's edition of David László Conhaim's ***Spurius*** gives the novel a striking and luxurious new treatment. Renowned Argentinian-born illustrator Jorge González's vivid images – including full-page and double-page illustrations within the text and an arresting slipcase design – brings the graphic events of the novel to life. Based in Madrid, González previously illustrated the edition of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* published by Los Libros del Zorro Rojo and The Folio Society's edition of Carlos Ruíz Zafón's *The Shadow of the Wind*. Working hand-in-glove with González through Maria Cardelli's IllustrationZone is award-winning hand-lettering artist Ruth Rowland who has designed album covers for Elton John, Kate Bush and Cliff Richard.

David László Conhaim is passionate about discovering stories and people somehow lost to history – and to inspire or renew public interest in them. His socially conscious, exhaustively researched novels in recent years have focused on the multiracial struggle for the American West, emphasising issues of family, identity and belonging. Conhaim's Paul Robeson-inspired *Western All Man's Land* (Broken Arrow Press, 2019) was selected Finalist Best Novel in the Western Writers of America Spur Awards and won 'Maverick' in the Will Rogers Medallion Awards. His 2021 novel *The Unredeemed* – a sequel to 2017's *Comanche Captive* – was a Best Novel winner in the Will Rogers Medallion Awards and a Best Novel finalist in the Western Fictioneers' Peacemaker Awards. In 1995, Conhaim co-founded *The Prague Revue*, the longest-running literary journal to serve the community of international writers in Prague. For *The Prague Revue*, he wrote a fictional remembrance of Miguel de Unamuno, which Gore Vidal 'read with delight', republishing it in the 2024 *All Man's Land* expanded second edition as *Don Miguel – The Wise*. Conhaim was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1968.



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