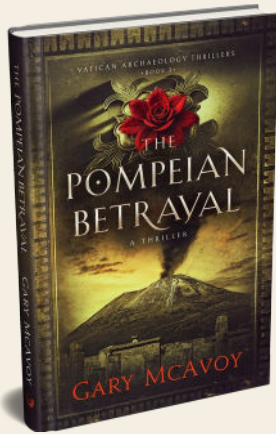


The Pompeian Betrayal

Gary McAvoy



BOOK DETAILS

PUBLISHER

Literati Editions

PUBLICATION DATE

April 2026

GENRE

Thriller

LANGUAGES

English, French

TRIM SIZE (PB & HC)

5.5" × 8.5"

FORMATS & RETAIL PRICE

Hardcover \$29.99 ISBN 978-1-954123-81-6

Paperback \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-954123-79-3

eBook \$8.99 ISBN 978-1-954123-80-9

Audiobook \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-954123-89-2

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gary McAvoy is an American novelist known for internationally bestselling thrillers that blend historical intrigue, religious scholarship, and modern suspense. A lifelong collector of rare manuscripts and Church history research, he draws on extensive archival study to craft narratives rooted in authentic detail.

gary@garymcavoy.com
www.garymcavoy.com

The call comes at dawn. Three words. Come to Pompeii.

Marcus Russo has spent his career excavating the past. He has never been afraid of what he might find—until now. The chamber shouldn't exist. Neither should what's painted on its walls. The seven-petaled rose. The geometric cross. The unmistakable iconography of Rosicrucian tradition, preserved beneath two millennia of volcanic ash—etched into Roman plaster nearly fifteen centuries before the brotherhood claims to have been born. The discovery doesn't just rewrite history. It destroys a myth that powerful men have killed to protect.

Marcus is still photographing the evidence when the first threat arrives. The Fraternitas Rosae Crucis Aeternae has survived the Inquisition, two world wars, and the fall of empires. It did not survive four hundred years by tolerating witnesses. Within hours, Marcus's team is being followed. Within days, one of them is dead. And the man responsible for burying the original secret—a Roman philosopher named Gaius Petronius Harmonia, who chose concealment over legacy when Vesuvius buried Pompeii in AD 79—left behind one final message that the Fraternitas will do anything to intercept.

What follows is a chase across three continents. Pompeii to the Vatican. Vienna to the shadowed archives of Istanbul. At every turn, Marcus is one step ahead of people who have been doing this far longer than he has—and one wrong answer away from disappearing entirely. Petronius didn't seal his chamber to preserve a teaching. He sealed it to contain one.

Some secrets aren't buried because they're dangerous. They're buried because the truth, if it ever surfaced, would bring everything built on top of it crashing down. *The Pompeian Betrayal* is the third novel in the Vatican Archaeology Thrillers series. The past is patient. But the people guarding it are not.

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"Always a fan of Gary McAvoy and his work, I jumped at the chance to read the third novel in the Vatican Archaeology Thriller series. McAvoy uses his talents once again to highlight some great ideas and lesser-known finds, spinning them into a great story with much action and historical references... One of the most intense novels Gary McAvoy has penned to date, this story pulls all angles together to deliver a stunning thriller!"

While I have been enjoying the work of Gary McAvoy for a number of years, he never becomes overly repetitive. The ideas build off one another, never getting stale or becoming too simplistic. The narrative pushes the reader to feel a part of the entire process, enveloping them as they journey deeper into what is going on. Chapters speed by and leave the reader needing to know more, as they uncover truths and fictions one could not have predicted...

Marcus Russo has done well as protagonist, working angles that help intrigue the curious reader while also educating effectively. McAvoy uses some of his well-established characters from a tangential series, allowing those who have enjoyed his entire collection to feel connected to this piece... McAvoy delivers a well-paced novel that never sheds too much light on fact and fiction until the final pages, which is another gem in his writing. I can only wonder where things are headed next and how Marcus Russo will shape future revelations.

Kudos, Mr. McAvoy, for proving your writing never lacks that spark I enjoy!"

—Matt Pechey, Reedsy Discovery