Name	Summary	Chapters
Sabina	Teenage girl living in the Subura, daughter of <b>Faustus</b> and niece of <b>Rufina</b> .	1 - 6, 11, 13-16
Faustus	Landlord in the Subura, and brother of <b>Rufina</b> , owner of <b>Lucrio</b> . Owes money to a senator, who threatens to enslave his daughter <b>Sabina</b> .	1-6, 12
Rufina	Sister of <b>Faustus</b> and aunt of <b>Sabina</b> , owner of <b>Quartilla</b> and <b>Currax</b> , runs a popina in the Subura, is a Christian.	1-6, 12
Quartilla	Enslaved by <b>Rufina</b> , mother of <b>Currax</b> , a Christian. <b>Septimus</b> wants to buy her (Ch6).	2-6, 10, 12
Currax	Enslaved by <b>Rufina</b> , son of <b>Quartilla</b> , works for Rufina and Faustus doing a variety of jobs. Befriends the dog <b>Celer</b> .	2-6, 10, 12
Lucrio	Enslaved by <b>Faustus</b> with whom he works in the Subura.	1-6, 12
Manius	Beggar in the Subura, befriended/looked after by <b>Rufina</b> and <b>Quartilla</b> .	1, 4

	Lucilius	A wealthy equestrian young man, who travels through the Subura and meets <b>Sabina</b> . He is the son of <b>Lucilius Sn</b> . Lucilius is sceptical of <b>Nero</b> , and travels to Lusitania as a tribune under <b>Otho</b> along with his slave <b>Tiro</b> .	1, 3-6, 14-16
	Gisco	Veteran soldier who had served in Britain with <b>Indus</b> , where he met his wife <b>Catia</b> (with whom he has a son, <b>Rufus</b> ). Befriends <b>Faustus</b> , and tells the story of his time in Britain.	2-10, 12
	Catia	Wife of <b>Gisco</b> and mother of <b>Rufus</b> . She grew up in Londinium as the daughter of a sword-maker, and is the sister of <b>Aucissa</b> .	2-10, 12
	Atto/infans	Child of <b>Gisco</b> and <b>Catia</b> (called infans in Book 1, Atto from Book 2).	2-6, 12
A	Celer	Dog of <b>Gisco</b> 's family. Has a scar from a boar hunt where he saved Gisco's life.	2-6, 10
	Iulia	Friend of <b>Sabina</b> 's who attends the chariot races with her.	3

Nero	Emperor of Rome. <b>Lucilius</b> is worried about his plans to undertake great building works in the city (how will the space for his plans be created?). <b>Otho</b> is revealed to be plotting against him.	3, 4
Cornelia	Friend of <b>Sabina</b> 's who attends the Vestalia with her.	3
Thellus and Gallio	Two slaves working in the baths in Rome, who escape enslavement.	5, 6
Septimus	A Roman man who wants to buy the enslaved <b>Quartilla</b> (but has no interest in her son <b>Currax</b> ).	6, 10
Indus	Auxiliary soldier originally from Batavia, served with his friend <b>Gisco</b> in Roman Britain.	7-10
Aucissa	<b>Catia</b> 's sister, who has a relationship with <b>Luccus</b> , who takes a sword from her father's workshop. As a girl, Aucissa's life was saved by a Roman soldier.	7-10
Luccus	Young man from Colchester, Britain. Supports Boudica's rebellion, befriends/in a relationship with <b>Aucissa</b> . He is killed in battle by <b>Gisco</b> , and his father attempts to avenge him in Chapter 10.	8-10
Antigonus	A veteran soldier living in Aquae Sulis in Britain, whom <b>Gisco</b> and <b>Indus</b> befriend.	10
Marcus	A merchant known to <b>Faustus</b> and <b>Lucrio</b> , who transports <b>Sabina</b> from Rome to Arelate, where he entrusts her to the care of <b>Letta and Poppillus</b>	11

	Alexander	A mosaicist from Conimbriga (Lusitania) whom <b>Sabina</b> meets travelling to Arelate. Sabina ends up working for him, joining him in travelling to Lusitania, and finally marrying him.	11, 13-16
	Chilo and Proclus	Two men from the Subura who decide to loot the popina and kill <b>Faustus</b> .	12
	Letta and Poppillus	Bakers in Arelate who take in <b>Sabina</b> when she arrives there.	13, 14
	Gabrus and Darius	Actors in a travelling troupe in Gaul. Darius tells Gabrus that he is too old to be of use, and they abandon him.	13
	Philetus	Man enslaved by <b>Alexander</b> working as a mosaicist.	14
	Tiro	Greek man enslaved in the household of <b>Lucilius</b> , travels to Lusitania with Lucilius.	14 - 16
11	Cantaber	Wealthy man from Lusitania, who manages the mines at Las Medulas. <b>Lucilius</b> is a visitor to his villa, where <b>Sabina</b> and <b>Alexander</b> are working on mosaics. He is revealed to smuggle gold with <b>Otho</b> .	14 - 16
	Otho	Governor of Lusitania. Employs <b>Lucilius</b> as a tribune. Works with <b>Cantaber</b> to siphon gold away from the imperial coffers to fund a rebellion against Nero.	16
	Hettia and Maelo	Parents of <b>Alexander</b> , brick makers in Conimbriga in Lusitania.	16