

Subject: Query: MASSINISSA (145,000 words) — Epic Historical Novel Reframing the Second Punic War

I am seeking representation for *MASSINISSA*, a completed 145,000-word epic historical novel and the first installment in *BROWNBLOODS*, a planned multi-book saga tracing how a single African bloodline shapes—and survives—the rise and fall of empires. Combining the mythic emotional depth of *The Song of Achilles* with the geopolitical scale of *Gladiator*, *MASSINISSA* reframes the Second Punic War through the life of the Numidian cavalry commander whose strategic decisions helped determine Rome's ascent.

Raised between his native Numidia and Carthage, Massinissa is trained in warfare and statecraft under Hannibal himself, rising to command the most decisive mobile force of the ancient Mediterranean. He is never defeated in battle. Yet as Carthage and Rome compete to claim his loyalty, he confronts a deeper threat: empire's ability not merely to conquer men, but to erase their authorship. His bond with Sophonisba—brilliant, principled, and politically bound to his enemies—becomes the one domain he cannot defend through discipline alone. When history crowns Rome victorious, Massinissa survives to witness a quieter truth: that empire did not defeat him by force, but by learning his name, his loyalties, and the one place he refused to hide.

MASSINISSA stands alone while establishing the mythic foundation of *BROWNBLOODS*, an interconnected historical epic spanning 3,000 years—from the battlefields of antiquity to the modern Atlantic world. Each volume follows Massinissa's descendants as they adapt to survive within civilizations shaped by their leadership, intellect, and strategic indispensability, exploring how power endures even when its origins are erased.

I am Brian R. Burley, a Pittsburgh-based writer and executive focused on leadership, historical identity, and the architecture of power across time. *MASSINISSA* represents the culmination of extensive historical research and long-term series development, supported by a completed manuscript, full series bible, and outlined subsequent volumes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to send the manuscript or additional materials at your request.

Sincerely,
Brian R. Burley
brian.burley1@gmail.com
412.304.4428
Pittsburgh, PA