Why yes, I did murder the king – The Women of Early Rome

# Our Major Lady Players

* Rhea Silvia – a Vestal Virgin; mother of Romulus and Remus
* Acca Larentia – adoptive mother of Romulus and Remus
* Hersilia – a Sabine woman; wife of Romulus
* Tarpeia – daughter of Spurius Tarpeius; possibly betrayed the Romans during their war with the Sabines, or perhaps she was part of a trap for the Sabines that went horribly wrong
* Tatia – daughter of Titus Tatius, wife of King Numa
* Egeria – goddess and close personal forest friend of King Numa
* Horatia – sister of the Horatii brothers from Rome; betrothed to one of the Curiatii triplets from Alba.
* Pompilia – daughter of King Numa and mother of King Ancus Marcius
* Tanaquil – Etruscan wife of King Lucius Tarquinius Priscus
* Tarquinia – wife of King Servius Tullius
* Tullia 1 and Tullia 2 – the daughters of King Servius Tullius; both married to sons of Tarquinius Priscus. One is murdered by her husband and her sister; the other marries her sister’s widow and helps him to assassinate her father and take the throne.
* Lucretia – wife of Collatinus; possibly the most exemplary Roman woman who ever lived.

# The Kings of Rome

* 753-716 BCE - Romulus (co-ruled with Titus Tatius for part of his reign)
* 715-673 BCE - Numa Pompilius
* 673-642 BCE - Tullus Hostilius
* 642-616 BCE - Ancus Marcius
* 616-579 BCE – Lucius Tarquinius Priscus
* 579-534 BCE – Servius Tullius
* 534-509 BCE – Tarquinius Superbus

*NB: There is a lot of debate about the chronology for the kings of Rome, as well as a lot of speculation about the historicity of these rulers. This is the traditional chronology of rulers.*

# Bibliography

The major narratives for this time period in the ancient sources can be found in **Livy** *ab urbe Condita* and **Dionysius of Halicarnassus** *Roman Antiquities*. However, you will find the odd references to women in the regal period in the poetry of **Ovid** and **Propertius**, as well as the writings of **Cicero**, **Plutarch**, and **Pliny the Elder**. If you are interested in accessing these texts, there are extensive online libraries such as [Lacus Curtius](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home.html) and [Perseus Digital Library](https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/).

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