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Cleopatra Confesses (Paula Wiseman Books)



Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

4Q 3P M J S A/YA Meyer, Carolyn. Cleopatra Confesses. Simon & Schuster, 2011. 304p. \$16.99. 978-1-4169-8727-7. Biblio, Source Notes, Chronology. With this latest title, Meyer continues her trend in writing engaging, historical fiction. As with her previous books on historical figures, this story is told in first person, providing readers with an intimate feel to Cleopatra's life from age ten to her death by suicide. As Meyer relates in the author's notes at the end of the book, Cleopatra remains a largely mysterious figure as there is little information about her life. Despite this scarcity of information, Meyer weaves a plausible plot integrating historical facts and her own creative narrative, complete with secondary characters that may or may not have existed. Cleopatra is portrayed as a beautiful, resourceful leader whose quest for power and royalty appear to be based on an altruistic belief that she truly can make a positive difference for Egypt and its people.

V Cleopatra Confesses"Carolyn Meyer. S&S/Wiseman, \$16.99 (304p) ISBN 978-1-4169-8727-7"

Before she was a queen, Cleopatra was a girl, and Meyer's incarnation of the future monarch longs to be treated as normal--wandering the marketplace, learning to dance--even as she secretly hopes to someday rule Egypt. Meyer's short chapters can occasionally make the narrative feel choppy, but her lush, detail-rich prose ably evokes Cleopatra's life as a young princess, beginning at age 10 and

continuing on until she turns 22. During this time, readers are treated to royal intrigue and the cutthroat politics of Cleopatra's two older sisters, Tryphaena and Berenike, who are desperate to prevent Cleopatra's rule, since she is the favorite daughter of their father, King Ptolemy XII. This is sibling rivalry at its most vicious: crossing her sisters could cost Cleopatra her life, let alone her throne. The arrival of Marcus Antonius midway through the novel (and later of Julius Caesar) provides only the briefest hint of romance--Meyer (The Bad Queen) roots her heroine squarely in the realm of politics. Narrating with the poise and confidence of a born leader, this Cleopatra should win readers over. Ages 12-up. --"Publishers Weekly", May 9, 20114Q 3P M J S A/YA Meyer, Carolyn. Cleopatra Confesses. Simon & Schuster, 2011. 304p. \$16.99. 978-1-4169-8727-7. Biblio, Source Notes, Chronology. With this latest title, Meyer continues her trend in writing engaging, historical fiction. As with her previous books on historical figures, this story is told in first person, providing readers with an intimate feel to Cleopatra's life from age ten to her death by suicide. As Meyer relates in the author's notes at the end of the book, Cleopatra remains a largely mysterious figure as there is little information about her life. Despite this scarcity of information, Meyer weaves a plausible plot integrating historical facts and her own creative narrative, complete with secondary characters that may or may not have existed. Cleopatra is portrayed as a beautiful, resourceful leader whose quest for power and royalty appear to be based on an altruistic belief that she truly can make a positive difference for Egypt and its people. Value-added resources at the end of the book include the author's notes, a bibliography, websites, a time line, a list of Egyptian gods and goddesses, and an explanation of the Egyptian calendar. This well-crafted tale will definitely appeal to fans of historical fiction dealing with ancient Egypt and those who have a particular interest in one of the world's most fascinating female leaders. In addition, the book will serve nicely as an introduction to historical fiction for book clubs focusing on this genre, or as a read-aloud to introduce students in social studies classes to the time period.--Donna Miller."VOYA June 2011"Gr 7-10-This fictional memoir of Egypt's alluring, mysterious queen resonates with historical authenticity, plausible emotional dilemmas, and passion for power and survival. Living among a cast of both historical and fictional characters, Cleopatra narrates her story from age 10 in 59 BC to her death at age 39. A Greek descendant of Alexander the Great, she is portrayed as a keen observer of her father's oppressive rule and unpopular submission to Rome; as an intellectual who studies the papyrus scrolls in the Library at Alexandria and learns the language of the Egyptian people; as a patient, shrewd competitor among her siblings for Ptolemy XII's throne; and as an adolescent who seeks friendship on her own terms with Charmion, a loyal court dancer who later reveals their shared lineage. Key events in history are captured in this riveting, personal tale that seeks to fill

gaps in documentation with realistic dialogue, descriptions of daily routines, daring marketplace adventures, royal excursions up the Nile, and poignant reflections on the fear and anxiety of living among a ruthless, ambitious family. Readers will savor the angst and "confessions" of an adolescent Cleopatra who secures a place in history as a charismatic, determined royal who raises an army against her brother after being banished from Egypt and who forges political and romantic liaisons with Julius Caesar and later Mark Antony to save Egypt and herself. A rich assortment of characters, places, and events is woven into this appealing, well-paced, informative examination of Cleopatra's dramatic life and times."-Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC ""- SLJ July 2011"Cleopatra Confesses. Meyer, Carolyn (Author) Jun 2011. 304 p. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, hardcover, \$16.99. (9781416987277). Moving beyond popular, archetypal images of Cleopatra, this historical novel focuses on the Egyptian queen's childhood and coming-of-age, especially the bitter struggle for power in her own family. Narrated in an immediate, first-person, present-tense voice, Cleopatra begins her story when she is 10 years old and is close with both her tutor and her father, who wants her to succeed him, and she is hated by her two older sisters. Then her father returns with a handsome Roman, Marcus Antonius, and at 18, Cleopatra becomes queen. Meyer has conducted extensive research into her subject, including travel to Egypt, and the thorough details about traditional rites, luxurious lifestyles, and social and political history occasionally threaten to overwhelm the story. What will hold readers most is the young queen's personal viewpoint, especially the extreme sibling rivalry. Could her sisters kill her? Could her little brother? And who are the spies? --"BOOKLIST", July 1, 2011Cleopatra Confesses"2011. 304pp. \$16.99 hc. Paula Wiseman Books (Simon & Schuster). 978-1-4169-8727-7. Grades 6-8" Told from Cleopatra's point of view, Meyer's novel provides insight about Egypt's enigmatic queen. Divided into ten parts, the novel focuses on significant events in Cleopatra's life. After her sisters' treacheries and the death of her father, it is decreed that Cleopatra must marry her younger brother and they would rule Egypt together. Determined to be the sole ruler, Cleopatra plots her next move which involves Julius Caesar. The story ends years later with Cleopatra's enemies at the gate and her suicide. The author also includes additional historical notes at the end of the novel that enhance the reader's understanding of the time period. - "Library Media Connection RECOMMENDED"

(October 2011)

Carolyn Meyer is the acclaimed author of more than fifty books for young people. Her many award-winning novels include >Ã¢â€”an ABAÃ¢â€”s Pick of the Lists, an NCSS-CBC Notable ChildrenÃ¢â€”s Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, and an ALA Best Book for Young

Adults and , a Book Sense Pick. She lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and you can visit her online at ReadCarolyn.com

I adore historical fiction and Carolyn Meyer is one of the best authors out there. I really enjoyed "Cleopatra Confesses." It tells the story of the famous Egyptian queen from a different angle, starting from her childhood. It's really sad, however because there was constant strife between her siblings and her father, King Ptolemy XII. Everybody wants to seize power from each other, they can't rest for fear of being poisoned by their own children or sisters. The author did meticulous research as well as an outstanding job of bringing the character to life.

I love all things ancient Egypt, so when I found out that Carolyn was writing a book on Cleopatra VII, I was thrilled. After falling in love with "Duchessina" and enjoying "Bad Queen", I had high hopes for "Cleopatra Confesses". Sadly, my hopes were dashed early on. I'm used to books about ancient Egypt having a certain sparkle to them--something that was captured by Kristiana Gregory's "Cleopatra VII" and Michelle Moran's Nefertiti/Nefertari duology. "Cleopatra Confesses", on the other hand, is flat and lusterless. Instead of seeing her enthusiasm for learning (as I've seen depicted in fact and fiction alike), I got the impression that Cleopatra found lessons with Demetrius more annoying and time consuming than anything. Gone was the usual curiosity and adventurousness to which I'm accustomed...Carolyn's Cleopatra seemed more interested in staying out of Tryphaena and Berenice's way. Even accompanying her father on his royal progress seemed to be done with more of a sense of duty than a sense of wonder. I really hope that "Cleopatra Confesses" was simply an "off novel" (or a really long "off day", if you will) and that Carolyn's next book (about Mary Stuart, I'm told) will be much more like her usual style.

An interesting history novel, that seemed faithful to historical events. It just couldn't sustain an interesting voice for too long. The beginning was interesting enough but by the middle I was done. It was hard to be very sympathetic to Cleopatra by then, despite doing nothing in particular wrong but something about her character seemed wrong for the time,

I'm a big fan of Carolyn Meyer's YA historical fiction because they're less dense than many historical fictions aimed at adults, but Meyer doesn't dumb down the content. My only complaint with this book is that I would have liked less time spent on Cleopatra's youth and more on her adult years.

Excellent book. Great research. It doesn't get any better than Carolyn Meyer historic fiction. I have never had a poorly written book by this author.

Wow

I have read many books of Carolyn Meyer and I am a big fan. My students have also recently become fans after reading Beware Princess Elizabeth in class. This particular book gets a 4/5.

I love Carolyn Meyer books. They have enough intrigue to keep my attention but also not too much to make it seem childish like a teenage television series.

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