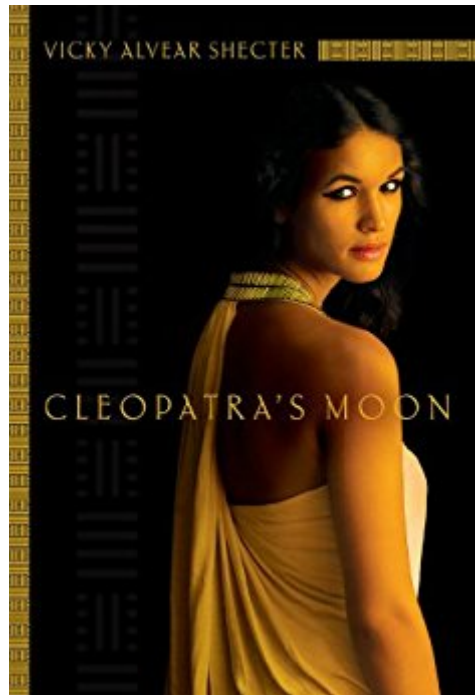




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# Cleopatra's Moon



## Synopsis

Cleopatra's Moon. The Critically Acclaimed Young Adult Novel Based On The Real Life Of Cleopatra's Daughter, Selene. The only daughter of the last queen of Egypt watches her beloved father--Mark Antony--fall on his sword in front of her. Then she hears the haunting wails of the priestesses of Isis on the island of Pharos and knows her mother died. It is the end of Cleopatra's rule and the start of Selene's nightmare. Her parent's vicious enemy, the snake-like Octavianus, forces Cleopatra Selene to march through the streets of Rome in golden chains and then sentences her, along with her brothers, to live as political prisoners in his own home. There she fights desperately to keep her brothers safe from poisonings and secret assassination attempts. Selene plots furiously to do what she knows her mother Cleopatra would want her to do--reclaim her destiny as the queen of Egypt. While plotting with her mother's agents in Rome, Selene knows her best shot at retaking Egypt's throne is to beguile her despised captor's nephew, Marcellus, the beautiful, golden-haired heir to Octavianus. But Selene unexpectedly falls in love with a fellow political prisoner setting off a deeply personal crisis: Does Selene choose the man she loves over the man who could help her rule Egypt? Selene is determined to live up to her mother's last whispered words to her--"You have the heart of a great and powerful queen," but at what price? Is she doomed to live and die like her mother, trying to use sex and seduction to make strategic alliances to gain power? Or can she take destiny into her own hands and create a future her mother never imagined? Life in Rome has its own surprises and Selene discovers that trying to follow in her mother's footsteps unleashes dangerous and unexpected consequences. Will Selene make the same decisions--and mistakes--as her brilliant but doomed mother? Or will she find a way to forge an identity and future all her own?

Take a trip to mysterious ancient Egypt--where a young Selene learns to follow Isis and curse her enemies with Anubis, the god of death and embalming--and prickly Rome where political intrigues and secret alliances are the currency of survival. LA Times called this young adult historical fiction novel "impressive in that it feels so real." Lose yourself in the exotic world of this critically acclaimed young adult romance novel. -----\* Publisher's Weekly on this powerful, epic Teen Romance novel: "Fascinating...Romantic." The Los Angeles Times On This Young Adult Historical Fiction Best Seller: "Magical. Impressive." ----- Young Adult Romance Book Categories: Young Adult Historical Fiction> Teen Romance Novel> Young Adult Books

### Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cleopatra Selene is a force to be reckoned with, as were her mother, Cleopatra, and father, Marcus Antonius, yet who today knew she existed? Cleopatra Selene, as she prefers to be called, not only exists, she lives on every page of CLEOPATRA'S MOON, from her home in the palace in Alexandria, Egypt, to Rome where she and her brothers are taken by Octavianus after he conquered Egypt and her parents take their own lives. We follow her from 34 BCE to 25 BCE in her determination to return to and rule Egypt, to survive the threats on her and her brother's lives from Octavianus and Livia, and to serve and follow the Great Goddess, Isis. Who are her real friends..and enemies? Who truly loves her, Marcellus or Juba? Vicky Alvear Shecter's novel introduces us to a multifascited character as she steers Cleopatra Selene and us through the beauty of Alexandria to the rough-and-tumble, dirty, smelly Rome, full of intrigue and murder. Along the way, we meet historical figures, learn bits of the seven languages Cleopatra and her children spoke, see the customs of Alexandria and Rome, and live through the anxiety Cleopatra Selene feels, wishing we could help her. This is a MUST READ!

I enjoy historical fiction, so it's no surprise I loved this book. I went in not recalling much about

Cleopatra Selene, which I think actually made the book better. Knowing the ending would have been a little anticlimactic. The book starts with a flash-forward that feels a little bit like a cheat. Exciting things happening! Then not-so-much. Still, the chapters dedicated to Cleopatra Selene's childhood in Egypt are interesting, if slow, and a good contrast to the years following her parent's death. Very little is actually known about Cleopatra Selene's life, so much of the book is from the author's imagination, but I thought it was a very plausible plot. War is violent. Ancient Romans weren't always nice, and viewed sexuality differently than we do. This book does not shy away from any of these facts. If you feel uncomfortable with this, CLEOPATRA'S MOON may not be for you, but overall I felt the author did a good job of keeping the material real without being gratuitous. Highly recommended for older teens and adults who enjoy historical fiction with a hint of romance.

The details in this book are so lovingly and lavishly filled in. The sights and sounds and smells make the story world come alive. But all those details also work to heighten the main character's emotions. The setting, the political climate, the religion...all of these worked together to be almost a character in the book. They were so important to the story, and I liked the faithful way the author handled the life and times of the ancient Romans and Greeks and Egyptians. I loved Cleopatra Selene and her commitment to her family and her calling. I loved best that she was a strong character who made her own choices and didn't feel compelled to follow her mother in every way. When I stop to consider all that this girl lost, I can scarcely take it in. She fell from such a height--being the entitled daughter of Cleopatra, the goddess queen who had such wealth and power. And from there Selene went to being a captive with no rights at all. How many people in the history of the world have been at either of those extremes? Because of her unique life, Cleopatra Selene is a fascinating character. And yet, because she also lost people she loved, she is universally relatable. Anyone who has lost a loved one can sympathize with Cleopatra Selene. On the one hand she's a powerful princess and on the other she's a little girl who has buried family members she loves. She's a wonderful character, and I feel the richer for having met her in the pages of this book. Happily Vicky Alvear Shecter did this girl justice.

The only daughter of Cleopatra VII of Egypt, Cleopatra Selene endures the deaths of her father and her mother before being dragged back to Rome by Octavianus to walk in his triumph. But her trials continue as she must survive traps set for her in Rome, and learn to become a queen in her own right. I love anything Egyptian (except Cleopatra VII, who just had to go and lose Egypt to the

Romans), and Vicky Alvear Shecter delivers a wonderful novel with a strong heroine in Cleopatra Selene. While I knew the history regarding Selene's life, Shecter's version has many delightful twists and turns. The writing was atmospheric so I felt like I was actually trudging through the filth of the Subura in Rome, and the characters were all complicated and terribly human. And of course, being a sucker for romance, I adored the bit of a love triangle. This is a great book for lovers of historical fiction, especially those who enjoy the ancient world and scrappy heroines!

I've always loved Michelle Moran's Cleopatra's Daughter but left me wondering whatever happened to Selene and Juba after. And this is it! I loved the twist of the love story, the love triangle and Selene's more daring portrayal though w/ a tinge of foolishness, after all, she's only a teenager. I really enjoyed it. Hoping for a sequel, but please keep Selene's dignity unlike some other version I recently read where Selene has turned out to be some desperate w###e.

If you need to write a paper on a fictional -but historical- novel, definitely use this book. The author did a very well job of researching facts to incorporate with the plot line and even provide further references in the back! I absolutely loved it!

This is not literary brilliance, but it is a unique, wonderfully told, insightful, instructive, beautifully constructed story. Based on fact, this book is the essence--the epitome, of why historical fiction makes for such fantastic reading, for me. I certainly look forward to more from Vicky Alvear Shecter.

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