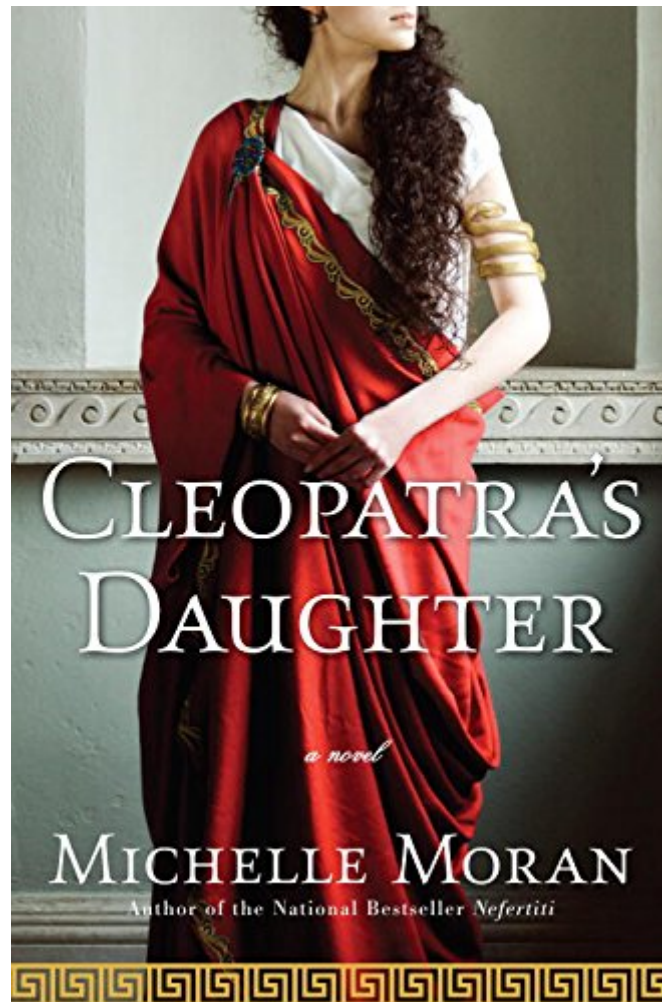# Cleopatra's Daughter: A Novel

Synopsis

From the internationally bestselling author of Nefertiti comes the tumultuous story of Antony and Celopatra's daughter, Selene. The marriage of Marc Antony and Cleopatra is one of the greatest love stories of all time, a tale of unbridled passion with earth-shaking political consequences. When the lovers choose to die by their own hands, their three orphaned children are taken in chains to Rome; only two--the ten-year-old twins Selene and Alexander--survive the journey. Delivered to the household of Octavianâ ™s sister, the siblings cling to each other and to the hope that they will return one day to their rightful place on the throne of Egypt. Recounted in Seleneâ ™s youthful and engaging voice, Moran introduces a compelling cast of historical characters: Octavia, the emperor Octavianâ ™s kind and compassionate sister, abandoned by Marc Antony for Cleopatra; Livia, Octavian's bitter and jealous wife; Marcellus, Octavianâ ™s handsome, flirtatious nephew and heir apparent; Tiberius, Liviaâ ™s sardonic son and Marcellusâ ™s great rival for power; and Juba, Octavianâ ™s watchful aide, whose honored position at court has far-reaching effects on the lives of the young Egyptian royals. Seleneâ ™s narrative is animated by the concerns of a young girl in any time and place--the possibility of finding love, the pull of friendship and family, and the pursuit of her unique interests and talents. And as Selene and Alexander come of age, they are buffeted by the personal ambitions of Octavianâ ™s family and court, by the ever-present threat of slave rebellion, and by the longings and desires deep within their own hearts.Based on meticulous research, Cleopatraâ ™s Daughter is a fascinating portrait of imperial Rome and of the people and events of this glorious and most volatile period in human history. Emerging from the shadows of the past, Selene, a young woman of irresistible charm and preternatural intelligence, will capture your heart.From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Cleopatra's Daughter tells the story of Cleopatra VII's children in the aftermath of the great queen's death. The viewpoint is that of the very likeable Cleopatra Selene, who, along with her twin brother Alexander Helios and younger brother Ptolemy, were the children of Cleopatra and Mark Anthony.The orphaned children are hauled off to Rome and into the home of Octavia, where Selene's life becomes entwined with some of the great figures of Ancient Rome, including Octavian, his wife Livia, his daughter Julia, and the future emperor Tiberius. The children dwell in uncertainty, never knowing if they will be allowed to live, or what their future hopes might be - - and I don't want to give away too much of what happens. But, remember, all those around Octavian had reason to be cautious, if not actually fearful.An enthralling aspect of the book is how the author has carefully portrayed not only Ancient Rome itself, but also what is known of the personalities of these famous Romans. We meet a willful young Julia and a sinister young Tiberius, and we know exactly who they are and what they will be like when they grow up.Almost all of the action takes place in Rome, so the book may be of more interest to those wanting to read about Rome than those wanting to read about Egypt.A brief timeline and list of characters at the beginning of the book and a glossary at the end help those who may need a refresher in who's who and what's what.There is a fictional subplot about the search for the leader of an underground anti-slavery movement that I sometimes found to be distracting.

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