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Young Adult Literature
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Cleopatra's Moon Book Review

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in Egypt as the daughter of Cleopatra? In *Cleopatra's Moon*, you will get that chance. *Cleopatra's Moon* is a compelling story about a glimpse into the little-known world of Cleopatra the First's daughter, Cleopatra Selene. "Cleopatra's Moon" was written by Vicky Alvear Shecter, and was published in September of 2011, by Arthur A. Levine Books. *Cleopatra's Moon* describes Cleopatra's daughter's journey from the suicide of her father and mother, to her affair with two Roman boys, and her life inside the strongest empire in the world, all the while, trying to regain the rule over Egypt that her family maintained for centuries.

Cleopatra's Moon is the story of the extraordinary life of Cleopatra Selene. The book begins with her extravagant life as the only daughter of the remarkable Queen Cleopatra of Egypt and General Marcus Antonius of Rome. The story brings the reader through several events, like the suicide of Cleopatra and Marcus Antonius, to the busy streets of Rome, where Cleopatra Selene and her brothers are brought after their parent's deaths. Cleopatra Selene must learn to cope with Roman lifestyles and traditions, as well as Octavian, who was responsible for the ransacking, and fall of the Egyptian empire. She struggles with her emotions and love affair between two boys. Her main goal throughout the novel, is to eventually regain control over Egypt, and restore the line of Egyptian families.

Vicky Alvear Shecter has also written several books for elementary and middle school children including, *Cleopatra Rules! The Amazing Life of the Original Teen Queen* and *Alexander the Great Rocks the World*. In 2011, she decided to take the plunge into the Young Adult Literature world, with the release of *Cleopatra's Moon*. In May of 2014, she released her latest Young Adult novel, *Curses and Smoke: A Novel of Pompeii*. Vicky was born in 1961, in Hollywood, Florida. As a kid, she always dreamed of becoming an archeologist. When she entered college, she abandoned those dreams, and decided to major in English. She began to find her passion of the past, when she told her kids some of the stories that she had heard about Cleopatra, Rome, Greece, and many ancient civilizations. She decided to write books about her knowledge, and the storyline for *Alexander the Great Rocks the World* fell into place. In 2011, Vicky decided to switch to Young Adult Literature, and released *Cleopatra's Moon*.

Cleopatra's Moon is an awesome choice for a Young Adult Literature reader, looking for a novel about ancient civilizations, especially Egypt. There are a few phrases that the author uses that aren't exactly relevant to the time period. However, this book may not be the right choice for a younger reader, because this book does feature a couple of sexual situations, and some themes, such as violent punishments described in great detail, that may upset a younger reader. Overall, I highly recommend *Cleopatra's Moon* to any reader, because it reveals the life of a girl long hidden in history: the remarkable Cleopatra Selene.