



The Courtesan's Daughter

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Phano is almost 15, the traditional age for a woman to marry in ancient Athens. She is in love with Theo, who is 30—the traditional age for a man to marry. But marriage may not be an option for her. Her stepmother's enemy, Phrynion, claims that Phano is not really a free woman but a slave who belongs to him, and he is ready to sell her if he can get his hands on her.

Phano, her father, and her stepmother must use every resource they have to try to restore her reputation and keep her safe. Even if they can keep Phrynion away, Phano may never be able to marry Theo, whose prominent family would expect a wealthy bride who would bring a good-sized dowry with her. Meanwhile, Athens faces the threat of war from Philip of Macedon. Once she turns 15, Phano must find her place as an adult in the turbulent society of ancient Greece.

The Courtesan's Daughter Details

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Author : Priscilla Galloway

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Kayley says

I have read many a historical fiction book, and this one, while being well-written and using good imagery at some parts, has kind of a placebo effect. The author is trying desperately to paint a femme fatale character, but allows her to have so many characteristics of a obedient wife and daughter. You start rallying behind Phano's spirit, and then she blurts out something about being a good and doting wife and knowing how to please her husband, and you deflate again. The novel is full of those moments. And while the age difference between her and Theo is wide, it was common place, and you have to put yourself in that time to become used to it.

Overall, like I said, it's a placebo book. Something to keep you interested in between books and suffice the yearning for some gushy romance, although it leaves much to be desired.

Phair says

Was surprised how much I enjoyed this: involving, great history, good characters. Have not read a lot set in this period Greece. Apparently the story is based on actual court documents that have survived and the afterword explained the sources used. I was especially impressed with the cover art which matched the book's description of the character exactly- that seldom happens. I was also pleased that a goose featured prominently in the story. I like geese.

Mia says

I picked this up while perusing the library, it's title intrigued me and I like ancient civilizations. I was disappointed. The main character, Phano, has all the attributes of a strong character but because of the way she was written came across as a whiny child to me. When she hurt I did not feel as a reader should towards a heroine. This story seem like it would be an interesting one, it is even based on true lives to an extent. The book lacked details, it felt very bland, the details it did contain were more like ramblings about facts of Greek culture that sounded akin to a history book. Facts do help the validity of historical fiction but not if the story itself has little glimmer. There is a great villain who does very evil things but he's drawn out too long. The story seem to have a couple different small climaxes than a large one which also made the tale dull. Around page fifty I wanted to stop reading but I'm a person who likes to give the book the benefit of the doubt and see what happens at the end. At page one hundred I desperately hoped the book would get better or end soon. It got slightly better but not enough; I regretted not starting a different book. Perhaps the writer is better suited to non-fiction, she seemed more comfortable in that area.

Catherine says

This book was okay, but not great. The storyline itself was not overly interesting until closer to the end, and the characters were okay but not compelling. I think this was, in large part, due to the fact that the

information was sometimes given in weird orders. For example, making a big deal about an event for nearly a whole chapter, trying to evoke emotion, and then explaining what the event was and why it was important. I think if those sorts of things were fixed in the novel it would have gotten a higher rating.

Elizabeth says

This book has practically no plot, and therefore is not very interesting to read.

Sam Grace says

The reason this book got four stars instead of two was because it retells a story I think is awesome and I haven't seen retold elsewhere: the legal case against the infamous courtesan Neaira. It's set in ancient Athens, and unlike virtually every other novel I've read, it's an ancient Greece I can believe in. And yet, still manages to make women awesome.

The main character is less awesome. She's okay, a two star character, but the world of women around her is so interesting that I forgive Priscilla Galloway.

This is the inverse of the Penelopiad, which was excellently written but I didn't think did justice to the ancient story. This, on the other hand, really brought the ancient story to life, but isn't the best written.

Amy Mathers says

<http://amysmarathonofbooks.ca/the-cou...>

Jori Richardson says

A very average book that is not all that well written, especially in terms of characters. The author did a better job with the setting, and the reader does admittedly get a picture of Ancient Greece in Athens. However, that is about all that I could really find to enjoy about this book. All of the characters were lifeless and bland, and the events seemed predictable and inconsequential at best. The reader constantly feels very removed from the story.

Okay... not that great.

Kricket says

i love ancient greece. i even think courtesans are pretty interesting, and i'm always up for a good rant about patriarchal societies. so why was this book so boring? maybe because the bland narrator had bland observations and not a single thought she could call her own. and yet all the while her future fiance is admiring her for her wit and liveliness. clearly he saw something i did not.

Maddy says

I read this book because I loved Galloway's Truly Grim Tales so much, and was somewhat disappointed. First of all, our culture has had its way with me - I can't think of a romance between a 15 year old girl and a 30 year old guy as anything other than "ick". Also, I was annoyed that Galloway seems to have decided that the commonplace homosexual relationships between men in ancient Greece cannot be mentioned. You had a good opportunity to talk to contemporary youth about LBGT issues, Galloway, and you blew it!

I can't remember much of the plot, but it seemed to be poor-girl-gets-saved-by-good-marriage. I think she gets mildly involved in overthrowing an anti-democratic plot in Athens, but maybe I'm confusing it with LeGuin's Voices.

Sarah says

This was a quick and easy read. It was interesting, but could definitely have been better. I picked it up in the adult fiction section, but I think it belongs in adolescent fiction. I would have liked more detail about the period.

Jess says

This book very nearly bored me to tears.

Penwiper says

Writing style very dull.

Caitlín (Ink Mage) says

I put this down at about page 184 because I realized I just did not care and was wasting my time.

Brillare says

The reviews don't look very good, but I'll stick it on my to-read list and give it a try...someday...maybe.
