



The Centurion and the Queen

Minnette Meador

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Marius has been stationed on the island of 60AD Britannia for sixteen years, since his demotion from the famous Praetorian Guard after his suspected involvement in the assassination of Caligula. When Delia enters his life, she challenges everything he believes, effortlessly strips away years of Roman conditioning, and angers him to the point of betraying his training, and his oaths. He simply cannot resist her. Delia is sister to an indolent Celtic king, but that role has turned to nothing more than another surrender. All she can do now is help her people survive the gradual conquest by Rome and their suicidal pride as so many throw themselves against the unstoppable Roman machine. The last thing she expected was to find herself craving the touch of an enemy.

The Centurion and the Queen Details

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From Reader Review The Centurion and the Queen for online ebook

Mei says

I liked it very, very much!!!

The hero was great! The heroine too, but the hero was really yummy!!! He's a man nearing his 40s and a soldier to boot (ops, sandals :D). He's cunning and a Centurion respected by his soldiers for his honour and fairness. His authority in his centuria is absolute and the discipline is strict.

He meets the heroine when she stops a rape of her ward by his second in command. He's intrigued by his slight woman who manages to stop a brute of a man with only a knife. So the clash of their wills begins. She's terrified by him, but she's strong enough to not let him know it; he's intrigued by her courage and her beauty.

Their budding relationship is very well done.

His inflexibility towards the Roman law is abundantly shown both toward his men and her.

He has a very dominant personality (there's an almost BDSM scene ;)), but he changes when in love.

Here's a small complaint: their love seemed too "instant" to me. I would have liked a little bit more time to get them to know each other. Instead they just met and the day after they're in love... it's too abrupt, too soon... But it is really a small complaint!

The beauty of this book are the descriptions: of the men, of the country, of the Roman camp, of everybody's feelings. You just feel the weather and the mud under their feet. It's really amazing, and I felt like I was a direct witness of everything!

This story continues in the second book!!! Great!!!

Miriam Newman says

A super book, a definite five. Riveting and dramatic, full of rich historical detail. Not for the faint of heart, as there are graphic scenes of battle and violence, but a very satisfying read.

Betsy says

This was a good historical romance. I enjoyed the characters, they were compelling and not foolish, hysterical or overplayed. The romance was well done and the grisly nature of the times and the horrors of war was reflected and respected rather than ignored.

Helen Peter says

Very interesting book. Love the strong heroine and hero. Look forward to the next book in the series.

Sophia says

I was so thrilled when I saw what historical period would be the backdrop for this book. The Roman conquerors against the native Bretons. Queen Boudicca (or however you want to spell it since there are a zillion ways it seems) and her push to rid the English soil of the Romans as one of the last huge battles- yeah, exciting stuff. Much of the story centers around a particular group of Romans and Bretons and I found it a fantastic blend of historical authenticity and a beautiful romance.

Marius is a centurion with his men patrolling the uneasy lands of Breton far from the heart of the empire. He is a celebrated soldier and was once part of the Emperor's Praetorium Guard. He is a hardened soldier who trains his men to function at their best, but he is also fair which earns him loyalty and respect.

On a routine patrol, he catches a group of villagers working a field on Roman lands. He captures them and has them escorted back to his camp, but not before he notices that the activities are all being kept under observation by a beautiful fiery redheaded woman hiding in the trees. For the first time in a long time, he feels an interest. He orders her to be gathered up and brought to him for questioning.

Delia knew of the soldiers in the vicinity and rushed to warn her people to get out of the fields, but she is too late. Then while she is trying to decide how to get their release as she follows the soldiers, she and her maid are taken captive. Delia is a trained warrior and a queen of her tribe. The cold-eyed and intimidating leader of the Romans must not know her fear. She must negotiate terms all the while she must fight the attraction she feels for this enemy.

Marius knows that Delia holds secrets and they are secrets he needs, but he also learns that she is highly learned and intelligent. But before he gets far into his attempts to gain the information she knows, Delia does something that both angers him and forces him to take harsh measures against her. It is then that he learns the true state of affairs and can come to terms with what Delia's secrets are. It does him little good because beyond his knowledge things have already been set into motion both on a small scale and on a larger scale across all Britain.

As noted above, the historical backdrop, culture and even actions of the characters felt so authentic to me. It was not so simple to just hate the invaders whose appearance is bringing an end to the warring tribal way of life. Those were brutal, hard times.

The fictional plot was well-written where it was nestled down within the greater historical plot. I liked the blend of romance and action. The attraction was right away, but the romance itself built slowly as Marius and Delia learned about each other and learned to trust in each other.

Delia was a force to be reckoned with. She had to grow up fast in the shadow of the Roman invasion and the death of her father the king. I loved her heart for her people and her bravery to do what she must when it would have been safer and less miserable for her to sit back and let it all happen. She was afraid, but she still did what she had to do. Marius was another character that I found full of depth when he was slowly revealed. Even in the opening scene when the villager attacked him first, he is deeply regretful that he had to take the life. He does his duty, but his humanity and compassion never desert him. It is almost humorous how his dealings with Delia flummox him and he is left floundering and unsure when it comes to her. I felt sorry for him when her actions place him in an untenable position. He blames her for not trusting him, but really, how could she trust him so soon under the circumstances. They were beautiful together and when things pulled

them apart all I could do was wonder how they would be brought back together. The villain of the piece was done in such a way that he was both pitiable and still worthy of anger toward him. I enjoyed the secondary characters too and liked that they weren't just props for the main characters to parade around.

So, I can whole-heartedly recommend this to those who enjoy a gritty historical romance from a time period that not many romances are written.

Missy Jane says

Very well written and intriguing. I really liked this book.

Sheila says

I'd read Minnette's fantasy novel, "Starsight," a while ago and really enjoyed it. But I wasn't quite so sure what I'd think about historical romance, particularly not when it's set in the land of my birth. I'm kind of possessive about England and its history; I people its past with characters from the Rosemary Sutcliffe novels I read as a child. And the memories run deep because she always made me cry, much to my brothers' amusement.

Minnette didn't make me cry. But she did create a very plausible England with fine characters and intriguing background. The centurion is predictably heroic (should I put that in capitals?), but none-the-less interesting, particularly when Minnette begins to sketch in more of his background. And the queen projects a satisfying combination of power, education, impulsiveness and vulnerability. The other characters each arrive with fully realized histories and possibilities, giving them surprising depth. And Minnette paints an appealingly cosmopolitan picture of the culture of the time, with world travel, education, law, slavery and friendship all falling into place. The pages flew by.

So, if you're looking for an exciting read, empowered heroine, romantic love, and intriguing vision of English history, "the Centurion and the Queen" will supply your needs and more.

Thelma Banzhoff says

If you have never read a historical book or series. This is a must read. Minnette grabs you from the first page and dosen't let you go until the end. Well not actually lets you go, you are just waiting for her to write more. The book is mainly about Marius and Delia. The trials and tribulations of the ancient people, the way women were treated until they found the one to love, and who loves them. This is a wonderful book. A must read.

Suzanne says

I thought the story was quite goodslightly kinky with the crazy brotherwierd that the hero was 40 ..but I can adaptI was slightly confused over the battle/ fire rescue part I kinda felt that was fillerI would have liked more interaction with h and H .

Kathryn says

This was a really good historical romance. I've seen people list it in erotica, but not so much for me. Marius and Delia meet under a stressful situation but their connection is immediate. I don't want to give away much because I think you will enjoy this just from the description of the book and other reviewers.

Tia Fanning says

Five stars does not even come close to how much I love this book. It deserves ten, perhaps twenty stars!

Author Minnette Meador takes you on a thrilling journey to a turbulent time in history and spins you a romantic tale that will have you emotionally engaged until the very last page.

As you read, you'll be laughing with the characters, crying with the characters, screaming at the characters one moment (yes, as if they could actually hear you), then cheering them on the next (and making all the people around you think you're utterly crazy for talking to a book!) However, more importantly, you will fall in love with the characters, the story, and the author's eloquent writing style.

Anyone is who is a fan of history, legend and/or mythology-- and of course, romance-- should read this book. You will not be disappointed.

Cheap and Lazy says

3.5 stars. I really struggled with how to rate this one. The setting was incredibly rich, could-be-a-movie dazzling. The story was action-packed, but very bloody and heavy. The combination overshadowed the romance for me, and I never really felt it. I do like a lot of plot with my romance, and I don't usually have a problem with violence. Some details also detracted from my enjoyment. Such as: how quickly characters recovered from wounds, the thing with her brother in general, the disjointed telling of the death of Marius's friend and Caligula was confusing, the abrupt ending with last-minute tying things together. It's a very powerful read, though, and my likes and dislikes warred almost as badly as the Bretons and the Romans in the story.

Catherine says

THE CENTURION AND THE QUEEN is fabulous. You'll be swept away, back in time...to the golden days of Rome and its conquests.

And you'll want to be in Marius' tent! Such a fantastic romance between the hero and heroine in this book. If you want to read a great historical romance with the backdrop of ancient Rome, then read THE CENTURION AND THE QUEEN.

:)

Catherine Chernow

Kj says

It started out good. About 25% of the way in the conversations started to make me question how realistic it was. Nothing kills a book for me quicker than unbelievable dialogue, Like shouldn't the Centurion already know about the local kings and chieftain's and their families? Is that good policing tactics? The behavior on both sides had me eye rolling. By the 50% mark I was skimming just trying to make it through the horrible ridiculousness.

Vanetta Quintana says

Note: I don't give *Spoilers*

This was my first book by this author and don't be fooled by the cover! This is a 10+ Star Book!

When you open this book up and start to read it you don't want to put it down. I love how she wrote the plot of this book, she had you grabbing this book and I felt like I was there in the "era".

This is not your "typical" love affair in historical era. I loved how she writes about a strong women and strong men (when the time is right).

I fell in love with characters & intriguing history background as it was written.

There was so many twist and turns she wrote it where you couldn't figure out the end, the book was about romance, friendship, family, slavery & the law.

Again, don't let the cover fool you! A Definitely Must READ!
