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LILY OF THE NILE:  
A NOVEL OF  
CLEOPATRA'S  
DAUGHTER  
Hits Bookshelves  
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## Love, Monsters & Mythology

A LOOK AT LOVE  
THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ANCIENTS

### WHEN WE THINK OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY...

The stories that have come down to us tend to focus on sword-wielding heroes, mythical monsters and quarreling gods. Often, myths are used to explain away natural phenomena like lightning bolts or earthquakes. Just as often, mythology is used to justify the loss of a great war...or to commemorate a great victory.

### BUT A SURPRISING NUMBER OF MYTHS ARE ABOUT LOVE

Though marriages were almost always arranged business propositions, love was as present in the ancient world as it is now. Empires were won and lost for love and we find no greater example of that than the lives of Mark Antony and Cleopatra VII of Egypt, the parents of Cleopatra Selene, the heroine of *Lily of the Nile*.

### CLEOPATRA'S DAUGHTER

Selene would have grown up hearing unflattering stories about how her mother was a wicked seductress who ruined two Roman generals. She would have also heard about the way her father was so devoted to her mother that he offered his life to Augustus Caesar if only he would spare Cleopatra. Selene's parents had an epic romance, but they were not the only examples of love that she would have heard about. There were also the stories, already ancient in her day, that I'm going to tell you about now...



Even the story of the Minotaur had a romantic subplot. It was Ariadne, daughter of King Minos, who helped the hero Theseus defeat the monster and escape the labyrinth. When Theseus left Crete, he took the princess with him.



*Orpheus & Eurydice*



*Baucis & Philemon*

ANCIENT LOVE STORIES



*Pygmalion & Galatea*



*Odysseus & Penelope*



*Faithful, Chaste Penelope Waiting at Home*



*Odysseus on Shore Leave*



*Odysseus & the Sirens*



*Witches were feared in the ancient world*



*Circe charming men and turning them into beasts*

## BAD GIRLS OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY

- Have a Voice
- Own Things
- Live Autonomously
- Experience Sexual Desire



*Nymphs were women outside of society*



*Ancient Girls Gone Wild*



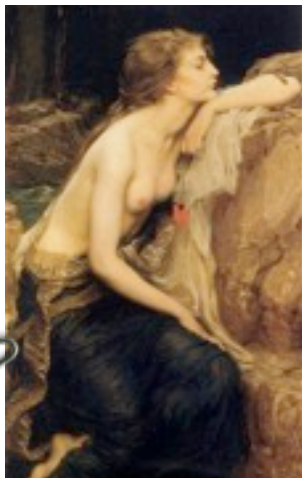
Gorgons



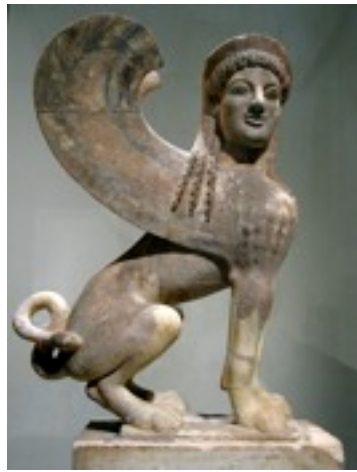
Harpies

## MONSTRESSES

Monsters represent not just our fears about who we might become, they also represent a fear of the *other*. Given the way ancient man seemed to view women as a type of *foreign* creature, perhaps it shouldn't surprise us that the majority of mythological monsters appear to have been *female*.



Ancient Vampires



Greek versions of the Sphinx



*Ares & Aphrodite are Caught in the Act*



*Zeus & Hera have a troubled but loving marriage*

## THE GODS

Whereas monsters represented ancient fears about love, the gods give us insight into their aspirations. Usually, the Greeks loved perfection, but their divine pantheon of gods were a big dysfunctional family. And yet, for all the troubled marriages on Mount Olympus, the stories revolved around love, forgiveness, and even some measure of respect for women.



*Zeus & Europa*



*Unlike mortal Penelope, Hera keeps an eye on her man*