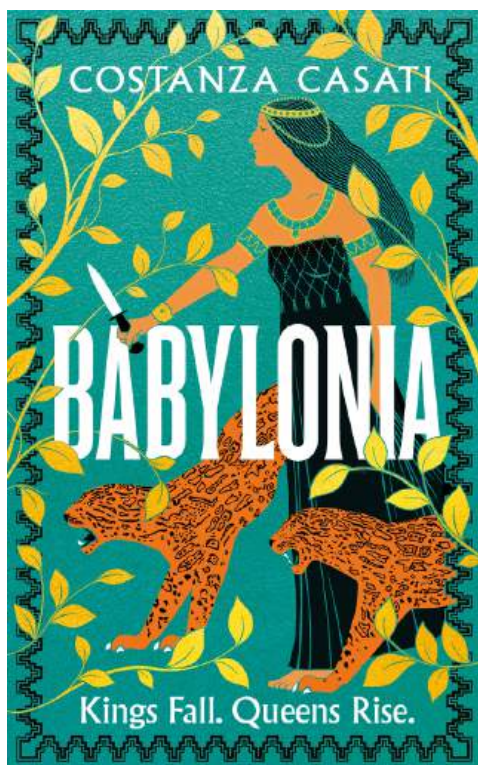


BABYLONIA

By Costanza Casati

AN ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE READ. SHARE. RECOMMEND



Penguin Michael Joseph, 2024

About the Book:

There are whispers of her fame, in the land long since turned to dust. The Queen who rose from nothing – and changed everything...

Ancient Assyria, 9th century BC. An orphan is raised on the outskirts of a brutal empire. Heir to a tragic prophecy, Semiramis dreams of wielding power and escaping her destiny.

Far away, a reluctant prince walks the corridors of his gilded palace in a city built by the gods. Ninus would rather spend his days in books and poetry than conquering the world of men. But when he meets Onnes, a broken, beautiful warrior, something awakens in them both. And as they grow into young men, their friendship deepens into something fiercer still.

That is until Semiramis arrives. A savage love soon erupts between them all, even as a dark threat to the kingdom mounts. For Ninus and Onnes, one of them will be called to make a devastating sacrifice. For Semiramis, it will become impossible to distinguish between enemy and friend. And before long, all three will be forced to learn the lesson of the gods - in Babylonia, you must bend the world to your will. What doesn't bend, you break.

About the Author:

Costanza Casati was born in Texas and grew up in a village in Northern Italy, where she studied Ancient Greek, and Ancient Greek literature, under one of the country's most rigorous academic programmes. She is a graduate of the prestigious Warwick Writing MA in the UK, and has worked as a screenwriter and journalist. Her debut novel, *Clytemnestra*, has sold into 20 territories worldwide, was the winner of the Goldsboro Books Glass Bell Award and was shortlisted for the Historical Writers Association Debut Crown Award. *Babylonia*, her second novel, was an instant *Sunday Times* bestseller.



Costanza Casati (no copyright)

Other Books by the Author:

Clytemnestra (2020).

Discussion Points:

- How does *Babylonia* reinterpret or expand the legend of Semiramis? What are the challenges and opportunities of fictionalising real or mythic historical figures?
- The relationship between Ninus and Onnes, and later with Semiramis, is central to the story. How does the novel handle love - romantic, platonic, and political? How do these bonds shift in the face of duty and ambition?
- In a world dominated by male power, how does Semiramis navigate (and subvert) expectations of women? How is her femininity used as both a weapon and liability?
- The prophecy haunts Semiramis from childhood. How does the novel grapple with fate vs. free will? Do the characters ever escape the roles they've been assigned?
- Each of the main characters transforms dramatically over the course of the book. What moments feel like turning points for Semiramis, Ninus, and Onnes? What ultimately defines them? Choice, destiny, or circumstance?

Useful Links:

- [She Reads Novels - Babylonia by Costanza Casati](#)
- [Bookfever - Review: Babylonia by Costanza Casati](#)
- [Unruly Figures - Book review: Babylonia by Costanza Casati](#)
- [Google Play Books - Babylonia by Costanza Casati · Audiobook preview](#)

Suggested Further Reading:

Circe by Madeline Miller
The Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker
Kintu by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi
The Wolf Den by Elodie Harper
Women's Power in the Ancient World by Mary Beard (Essay/Talks Collection)

Connect with the Author:

