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In the 3rd century, pampered Roman princess Valeria falls in love with Mauritus, captain of the Theban Legion. She sends him off to battle, where he suffers under the schemes of a notorious pagan general with an ambition for power and a lust for Valeria. In a scene based on true events, the evil Galerius kills Mauritus and his entire legion for their Christian faith. And in a shocking turn of events, the grieving Valeria is forced to become Galerius' wife against her will. Never has a marriage been set up for such failure. Valeria loathes her new husband, but he seems to undergo a change of heart, adopting a child for her and giving her power and authority, and even love. She struggles with the commitment she knows she must keep, and the love she knows she will never find again.

Valeria's Cross Details

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From Reader Review Valeria's Cross for online ebook

April says

VALERIA'S CROSS by Kathi Macias and Susan Wales is a inspirational historical set during the Roman Empire era. It is well written with depth and details. It has courage, faith, hope, adventure, persecution of Christian's, martyrs, betrayal, the Roman Empire, sacrifice, Christianity, history, fear, following your faith, finding your destiny, hate, practicing the pagan faith, an emperor's daughter, Valeria, his wife, Prisca and a forced marriage between his daughter and a pagan general. Valeria is forced into a marriage to Gallerias, a pagan general, after she learns he had her true love, sacrificed and his christian soldier's "The The ban Legion". Valeria is beautiful, young, converted to Christianity, loves a man that was a christian and murdered/sacrificed by Galerius. This book is detailed with historical facts and shows the struggles and sacrifices the Christians endured during this period to practice their faith. This is an intense, sad, heartbreak story of the wife, Prisca and daughter, Valeria, of the emperor, Diocletian and the persecution of Christians during this era, their deaths, cruelty, and finally after years of exile and hiding, the deaths of Valeria and her mother Prisca. I would recommend this book especially if you enjoy Christian history, the Roman Empire history, the struggles of Christianity and the overwhelming faith, bravery and honor of these Christians in order to practice their faith. This book was received for review from Net Galley and details can be found at Abingdon Press and My Book Addiction and More.

Deana says

There were a few spelling/grammatical errors-next book I'll take note of where, etc.

My interests are listed on <http://www.netgalley.com/> as Christian, Historical, Romance, and a few others. Just so you know a bit about me, I'm a devoted Jane Austen fan, love Mary Connealy's humor and spunk, and love Julie Lessman's and Deeanne Gist's 'hotness factor' (to coin a phrase from my dear friend, Angie). I really tend to see things like a movie in my head as I'm reading. Although the description listed with this book appears to be like any typical historical romance, Valeria's Cross was not for me.

It's Christian and Historical to be sure. I learned the probable beginning of people making the sign of the cross across their face or chests and the use of ashes on the forehead. However, it was like reading about a woman's love life and spiritual struggles in the middle of a 3rd century holocaust. Well, it was a holocaust. Valeria's personal struggles with being a new Christian and a royal seemed real. Also, her realization of her physical response to a man's touch were very real. However, the spiritual and romantic struggles took a back seat to the Christian slayings (probably because of my visual imagination) and that's where things went wrong for me. There is no part of Valeria's life left unscathed. From her emperor father that arranges marriage to her beloved's killer to her son's blood splattering on her face to the color of her eyes changing as her head rolled off the chopping block(--ew/cringe--and I'm a surgery nurse)!

I'm thinking, 'This was not what I expect from a romance novel.' She does experience love and joy to some extent, but, for me, she took a back seat to the pagan sacrifices and Christians deaths.

Jessica Patch says

This book was new for me because I generally don't read historical fiction, although I love history. I wasn't

sure what to expect, but what I found was myself being sucked back into time and into Valeria's heart and mind. I screamed inside with outrage when one thing after another happened unfairly. I kept thinking things will change. I know it! But they never did in ways I expected. However, it only made me love the story more.

I cringed at Galerius, yet found myself loving him and then hating him again and again.

I had to pull myself together just to read the last few pages, since I was smearing my glasses with tears. A beautiful book of love, loss, and great persecution. I don't know how much more historical fiction I'll read, but you can bet, I'll be reading from this author no matter what she writes! Superb book!

Carman says

I was pretty disappointed in this book. But I'll get to that in a minute. I had no *idea* that this book was based on true events and people. I thought it was completely fiction. However, I still thought that the writing could have been a little better. Especially at the beginning you were "told" things that were happening in Valeria's life rather than experiencing them with her. It was a little like listening to a speaker who talked in a monologue. You were told things a little impassively and that didn't help me to create a "relationship" with Valeria and be interested in her personally.

Now, I understand that for the most part this is a true story so they couldn't change what happened in any big way, but I cried and cried throughout this whole book! The persecution of the Christians was well portrayed, but I tend to like stories that have the persecution and a redeeming ending. So for the most part, my disappointment in the book couldn't be helped since it was based on real people's lives, but I still think the writing could have been better. (I hate to give an unfavorable review, but this was my honest opinion. I sincerely hope that other people will enjoy the book more than I did.)

Kaity-Jane Culbertson says

Talk about heart-rending, heart-warming, and heart-breaking all rolled into one gripping story! A few things to caution - this is for an older teen group as there are non-descriptive, just obvious, scenes of consummation of a couple's marriage, the desire/temptation to commit adultery, and a disease that takes place on the private parts of a man (not descriptive just known - but it was an amazing story. After about 2/3 through it it began to read like a history book rather than a novel, but a big 5 stars still go to this wonderful story. It will have you feeling every emotion that Valeria goes through, and you will feel like you are living with her in the late 200s and early 300s AD in the Roman empire.

When you finish this book you will be awestruck at the powerful message of respect and obedience to one's husband, even in an unequally yoked, forced marriage, the acceptance of God's will, the unnatural forgiveness of wrongs, and a faith that endures.

Shayla.Madonna says

Very long and detailed, but powerful in any person's life.

Aleksandr Voinov says

My first inspirational, and my last. The research is extraordinarily choppy, and the authors run the characters like puppets. Most of them have changes of heart/attitude that make no sense at all. I'm amazed how an author (or two) can run such an interesting premise so completely into the ground. Also, France (or girls with the name "Colette") didn't really exist in 200-300 AD. NOT recommended as a historical, and overall not recommended unless you need a Christian fix.

(I'm very tempted to write a book covering the same issues from the pagan POv. MUCH more interesting than the incessant "I'll pray it gets better - oh look, everybody I care about dies.")

Corissia says

Didn't like it. The writing could have been better. Her first love was a man she knew virtually nothing about, they loved the idea of each other, you have to know someone to have a deep and meaningful relationship. What they had was a strong attraction to each other with the potential to develop into love. The main character was continuously doing things that might be valued today, but would have been extremely rude in her time. It was hard to believe. In the beginning of the book she could have been 11 the way she thinks and is described. Plus, really, the girl has a strong response to every man who flirts with her. Is it too much to ask she not want to sleep with every dude who glances in her direction? Yes, I know she doesn't, but she barely resists. Lame heroine if you ask me. Her mother was amazing and also her best friend, I'd have preferred to read more about them. I'm greatful this was a free book.

Yelania Nightwalker says

3.5/5

Valeria se enamora de Mauritius, el capitán de la Legión Tebana (soldados del imperio romano, pertenecientes a Egipto). Él se enamora de ella también, sin embargo, Mauritius sabe que al emperador no le gustará que el marido de su hija sea un simple capitán, así que se va a la guerra para servir a Roma y con el buen desempeño en el campo de batalla, el emperador Diocletian no podrá negarle la mano de su hija Valeria en matrimonio.

El General Galerius se sintió atraído por la pequeña Valeria desde que la vio en Egipto, durante la visita que la familia real hacía en esas tierras; y está dispuesto a todo por quedarse con el Imperio y con Valeria, lo único que debe hacer es sacar a Mauritius del medio.

Después de la muerte del capitán y de todo su ejército, que al profesor la fe cristiana no quisieron presenciar los sacrificios que los romanos hacían a sus dioses, Galerius logra que el emperador le permita casarse con Valeria, con la condición de que se divorcie de su primer esposo y nunca la vuelva a ver.

Después de la boda, Valeria sigue odiando a su marido, aunque él parece hacer todo para complacerla. ¿Podrá Valeria aprender a perdonar?

Me ha gustado la novela en su mayor parte, aunque es una novela cristiana y se nota rápido que está escrita con ese fin, por eso flaqueé en varios capítulos, donde sentía que no podía más con tanto amarás a dios y a su hijo que murió por tus pecados... creo que una persona que sí profese el cristianismo podría sentirse mejor con la lectura, pero ha caído en las manos equivocadas, por lo demás, dar a conocer una historia de la vida real es muy interesante, en este caso, por la falta de información al respecto, las autoras han llenado ciertos huecos de manera encomiable.

No hallaba cuál era el meollo de esta historia, pero creo que es el perdón y el abrazar la fe cristiana, y los mártires. En cuestión de perdón, vaya que Valeria se las lleva de todas todas. La conversión al cristianismo por parte de ciertos personajes se me hizo un poco tarde, aunque mucha gente dirá que nunca es tarde para creer, lo que sí es que el pobre se fue con la creencia de que sería aceptado en el cielo, o sea que pese a todo lo que sufre, al final se va con un poco de esperanzas... supongo que eso es bueno.

En cuestión de los mártires, todo me pareció muy real y en cierto modo me gustó esa realidad que le imprimieron las autoras, lo que me desagradó totalmente fue el final. Yo creo que como mártires, pues sí, debía ser expuesto lo que les tocó vivir a manos de los romanos, pero es demasiado para mi gusto, la imagen visual de ese último párrafo deja con un mal sabor de boca.

Una cosa que me confundió bastante fue que Galerius pinta para ser un verdadero malvado, totalmente sin escrúpulos. Ya había matado a Mauritius, dejó a su mujer para poder casarse con Valeria, le quitó a sus hijos porque eran suyos y ahora la madre de ellos tenía que ser su nueva mujer; y cuando recién lo conocemos, de hecho, veía a Valeria con ojos de lobo mirando a su presa, que yo creí que la noche de bodas sería todo un horror... No fue así, lo cual fue muy lindo de su parte, pero totalmente contradictorio a lo que se veía de él en un principio... más adelante nos es obvio que ama a Valeria y aún así, de pronto tiene unos arranques medio violentos, pero no era lo que hubiera esperado de él, jamás. No la puedo recomendar porque creo que no es un tipo de lectura apta para todo mundo.

Margaret Metz says

This book did a fantastic job setting the stage and making you believe you were there with Valeria - living what the early church went through. I felt her pain as she heard the news about Mauritius and his entire legion being killed for their faith. Even more telling, I felt the misgivings and pain of the soldier ordered to kill Mauritius.

Nothing is black or white in this story world. Valeria hates what her father has done, but worries about his health and cares about him and wants him to accept Christ. You see her have problems saying things from the old religion she grew up with just because it's habit and comfortable. She goes through a period where she isn't sure what she believes anymore. When she is forced to marry the man who is chiefly behind the persecution of the Christians, she rebels and is angry for quite a while. She has moments of jealousy - even towards her best friend. In short, Valeria reacted just like I think a real person in her position would have.

I don't like to read books that depress me. There were a lot of... negative things that happened in this book but because of the way the characters interact with each other, it never feels like you need to walk away. In fact you pull for them more and care about what will happen to them and wonder how they're going to handle the next obstacle that comes their way.

This is one of the best books I've ever read about this time period. It's a contender for my best books of the year as well. The plot moves along at a good pace, the authors did a fantastic job developing their characters and there is some nice romance - and true love - to sweeten it all up. I wouldn't hesitate to suggest this book to anyone. It's a great read.

Michelle says

Valeria's Cross is an incredible tale set during a time period when being a Christian could be deadly. I've read several books in the past year from the same time period such as Guardian of the Flame and Cleopatra's Daughter, and this book surpasses them all. Full of passion for people and for the Lord, this story really takes a look at Valeria's life and her purpose during that tumultuous period in history.

Though a fictional account, I found Valeria's Cross to be very believable. The struggles and temptations that Valeria faced were so realistically done that it left me breathless. I totally understood her pain and her passion. She had a difficult life of having to continually rectify her faith with the things her station required because of her role and position as Diocletian's daughter.

I grieved with Valeria more than once. She was a true martyr, in my opinion, for having to do so many things that she resisted at first, yet eventually conceded to. While women had some influence, they clearly had no power during that generation. Her suffering paid off, though, several times and she did experience joy in her life despite the heartache that preceded it.

It fascinated me how the sign of the cross and ashes on the forehead were used by the early church as a way Christians showed their allegiance to Christ when they were forced to participate in pagan ceremonies, or die. Valeria was a compassionate and likable character whose doubts and feelings rang true to me. Her life exemplified true forgiveness and she had a powerful testimony.

What I loved best about Valeria was that she was portrayed as very human. She suffered from many temptations that are rarely shown in Christian fiction, which impressed me all the more. This sweeping romance was powerfully written, and emotionally evocative. Bottom line...I was enthralled with this story. It's definitely making my best fiction of 2010 list!

Shantelle says

I don't really know what to think about this book. I'm going to rate it one star for now; because it just gave me an empty feeling.

For one, Valeria and her mother didn't seem very strong in their faith (secretly made the sign of the cross while the practiced pagan sacrifices), and in the end, they weren't even actually martyred for the faith. Oh, not to mention, the beheadings were in a little too much gory detail for me! I don't know... it's like, if you're going to make the main character die in the end, why not make it for some noble cause? Valeria was so halfhearted about following Jesus a lot of the time... it just made me sad! Yes, in the end, she went calmly to her death, but she died because her husband and father persecuted Christians... I mean, really?

Apparently Valeria really once lived, and that's how she died... but why write a book about it? It just made

me feel sick and sad. Some parts were really interesting and good, but in the end, it just felt kind of empty.

Maybe write a book about Stephen if you're going to make your main character die. I mean, that story is powerful! Stephen had great faith! -Forgave (on the spot) the ones who killed him. -Looked up into heaven and saw Jesus STANDING at the right hand of God! Now that's inspiring. That's incredible.

Yeah. *Valeria's Cross* was just too much for me. Sad, true-life story... but I'm not sure I see the significance. Apparently, it is not known if Valeria was actually a Christian, or just sympathetic to the cause.

I don't mean to bash the book or the authors!! I just had my qualms.

Delia says

Valeria, daughter of Roman Emperor Diocletian, accepts Christ and denies the false gods worshipped by her father. She then falls in love with Mauritius, captain of the Theban Legion, who also worships the one true God.

But a third-century woman, even a princess, has little power over her own life. In a devastating series of events, Mauritius is killed by Diocletian's general, Galerius, who hates Christians and wants Valeria for himself. Crushed by the death of the man she loves, the young woman is forced into an arranged marriage with a man she detests--the general who killed the love of her life.

Can a woman truly find happiness with a man like Galerius? Would she even try?

Valeria's Cross is the story of a woman strong enough to bend, but never break. Fulfilling the prophecy of a blind priest, her life becomes a powerful testimony to Christianity. She's not perfect. Costly mistakes are made, which only make her story more believable. But Valeria's ultimate faith in God, and trust in His plan, is a shining example of total submission...all the way to the end.

Not your everyday love story. Based in part on historical events, *Valeria's Cross* is almost too realistic. It is not an "easy read." Not the book to pick up for an afternoon of escape from reality. Neither lighthearted romance nor edge-of-the-seat suspense. But if you enjoy a well-written book with no promise of a happily ever...if you like an interesting storyline with disturbing undercurrents and a healthy dose of history, this could be the book for you.

You will close the last page determined to be a better, stronger, more dedicated Christian.

Crystal Navarro says

I was not quite sure how I felt about this book when I first began reading it. As I have read in other reviews, I did feel that the story was dictated to me almost like a textbook instead of experiencing the events with Valeria. I was disappointed in the cut-throat transformation given for Prisca and Valeria's conversion to Christianity, for example. I was enlightened when Maruitius came into the story, and then disheartened once he was no longer there. I did not find a true interest in the story until just a bit past the halfway point, where

the story line picked up again. As Valeria matured with her love for her husband despite his crimes, I found myself more sympathetic toward her plight.

Originally reading this book, I was tempted to give it a rating of 2. Thankfully, the second half of the story picked up the interest and I can honestly say that I liked it, even if it was not one of my favorite reads. I felt that story could have been written better-- the writing style was not one I generally enjoy.

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: In the 3rd century, pampered Roman princess Valeria falls in love with Mauritius, captain of the Theban Legion. She sends him off to battle, where he suffers under the schemes of a notorious pagan general with an ambition for power and a lust for Valeria. In a scene based on true events, the evil Galerius kills Mauritius and his entire legion for their Christian faith. And in a shocking turn of events, the grieving Valeria is forced to become Galerius' wife against her will. Never has a marriage been set up for such failure. Valeria loathes her new husband, but he seems to undergo a change of heart, adopting a child for her and giving her power and authority, and even love. She struggles with the commitment she knows she must keep, and the love she knows she will never find again.

REVIEW: This story takes place 200-250 years after the death of Christ during the early development of the Christian faith as well as a time when Roman gods and goddesses were the mainstay of religion in the Roman Empire. The leaders of the empire and their minions were engrossed in the worship of and sacrifice to these idols. Kathy Macias and Susan Wales through meticulous historical research have woven the tale of Valeria and her mother, Christian women, in the midst of this idol worship and Christian persecution. I found this story fascinating and the glimpse into this time period well done. It gives a true perspective of the strength of faith of the early Christian (and we are seeing it again today in many countries) as they gave their lives in staunch support of their faith going to their deaths singing and praising God.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "Her first concern is her Lord, and then her husband, according to God's plan. God gives us all different roles in life."

"God is greater than your circumstances."

"Love never dies....Only people do. When love is all that is left of someone, you must give away that love and not keep it all for yourself."

"The consequences of our actions are also God's gift to us because it allows us sinners a second chance to make things right with Him."
