



Book Club Questions  
Cleopatra by Saara El-Arifi

1. When does Cleopatra shift from being a survivor to a manipulator? Is it even fair to make that distinction, given the world she lives in?
2. How much of Cleopatra's identity is truly her own versus shaped by what others expect of her (as a woman, ruler, symbol)?
3. Did you ever feel she was performing power rather than owning it?
4. How much of Cleopatra's "love" for Caesar and Antony do you believe was genuine affection, and how much was a survival tactic to keep Egypt independent? Did you feel the power dynamic ever truly allow for equality in these relationships?
5. Were you always on Cleopatra's side-or did your loyalty shift at certain moments? What specific choices made you question her?
6. How does power change Cleopatra over time? Do you see growth, corruption, or simply adaptation?
7. How do you think her children viewed her? Was she a distant, divine figurehead to them, or did the book manage to show a tender, human side to her parenting despite the constant threat of war? Did her role as a mother conflict with her role as a Queen?
8. If Cleopatra were a man, would you judge her decisions differently? What does that say about how we interpret her character?
9. Do you think Cleopatra believes the ends justify the means, or is she more conflicted than she lets on? Where do you see her wrestling with her own morality?
10. In a world where everyone wanted something from her, how did her relationship with Charmion provide her with a sense of "self"? Was this a relationship based on true friendship?

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