



## Valley of Decision

*Lynne Gentry*

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Thirteen years ago, Lisbeth made an impossible decision—leave third-century Carthage and her husband Cyprian behind for good. She knew it was to protect her daughter Maggie, so Lisbeth gathered the strength to move on with her life.

All these years, Lisbeth has thrown herself into her work and raising her headstrong daughter, all to live up to the promise she made to Cyprian. But Maggie is sick of being protected. In an act of teenage rebellion Maggie decides to do what her mother can't—secretly returning to the third century on a quest to bring her father back, leaving Lisbeth no choice but to follow.

With Maggie's surprise arrival in Carthage, chaos ensues. She finds her grandmother on trial for murder and attempts to save her, but instead the diversion sparks a riot that nearly destroys the plagued city. Only one thing will appease the wrath of the new proconsul of Carthage: the death of the instigator.

Will Lisbeth arrive in time to save her daughter from the clutches of Rome? How can God possibly redeem such a slew of unwise decisions and deep regrets? Filled with heart-wrenching twists and riveting action, Valley of Decision brings the romantic adventure epic, The Carthage Chronicles, to an electrifying conclusion.

## Valley of Decision Details

Date : Published September 22nd 2015 by Howard Books

ISBN : 9781476746418

Author : Lynne Gentry

Format : Paperback 400 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Christian, Romance

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# From Reader Review Valley of Decision for online ebook

## Mei says

[What kind of romance is the one where the hero... DIES!!!????!!! (hide spoiler)]

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## Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/1MXpnrt>

It's hard to talk about Valley of Decision apart from the whole Chronicles of Carthage series, for each story builds from book #1, Healer of Carthage. This series is so far out of my comfort zone that it's not even funny, for I don't care for time travel or ancient Rome settings – yet I enjoyed and was moved by each story. While containing the entertaining elements of rich historical detail, well-developed characters, passionate romance, and action-adventure excitement, it was the spiritual depth that won't let me forget this series.

Valley of Decision focuses on Lisbeth's daughter, Maggie – impulsive, headstrong, a product of the 3rd century who grew up in the 21st century. Maggie's growing up years in Dallas have been mere hours in Carthage time, and this story begins shortly after the conclusion of book #2, Return to Exile. Not only is each story well researched, but Lynne has a gift for conveying a sense of place, for I could feel the very essence of a Rome that placed little value on human life - and I almost came to believe that time travel could be a reality!

Valley of Decision shines the spotlight on Christians ministering as Christ taught during a season of great persecution. In a time where political leaders sought to destroy the church, Valley of Decision shows imperfect Christians reflecting the love and humility of Christ – and elements of this story seem uncomfortably similar to areas of our world today. Always thought provoking, it makes me wonder if I would be as courageous as these 3rd century Christians.

The character of Cyprian, who really comes alive in Lynne's hands, is loosely based on a historical figure. I had so much respect and admiration for Cyprian and loved the tender romantic elements between him and Lisbeth. With a faith that had been tried and tested, he had a peace about his purpose, that of rallying and unifying a fragmented church.

It's easy for us to look back on history and wish we could change events, but as Lisbeth came to realize, removing even one thread from the tapestry of our lives would change the essence of who we are. I appreciate the reality of this story and believe Lynne chose to conclude it in the only possible way – heart-wrenching on the one hand, victorious and inspiring for the ages on the other.

In her notes at the back, Lynne shared words that Cyprianus Thascius penned for a friend, and I wanted to end with this quote about Christians:

“They have discovered a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasures of this sinful life.”  
- St. Cyprian

I'm glad Lynne was inspired by Cyprian's life and shared him through this series. Recommended to all who

enjoy inspirational historical fiction.

Thank you to Litfuse Publicity for providing a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Jalynn Patterson says**

### **About the Book:**

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### **My Review:**

Dr. Lisbeth Hastings left the third-century Carthage to protect her daughter, Maggie. She threw herself into staying busy at work. And when she sent Maggie to college, she was beyond proud. But after a long day at work, Lisbeth comes home to her father telling her of a phone call he just had with Maggie's school. Instead of Maggie doing as she said she caught a plane to Tunis, Tunisia. Soon Lisbeth and her father are hot on Maggie's trail.

Arriving in Carthage, Maggie learns things have changed. Her grandmother is about to be on trial for a murder Maggie knows she didn't commit. And worst of all her father's home is bathed in blood. Worried and scared Maggie believes she is lucky to find her father heading back to his home, the only thing is he doesn't recognize her. Only a few hours ago her father had sent her away in his time but in the twenty-first century it had been thirteen years. Now a grown woman, Maggie must convince both her father and their friends that she can help with the murder trail for the soon coming future is going to be something none of them can bear.

Valley of Decision is book three in The Carthage Chronicles. I have followed this series for a while and found that this author will never disappoint. This novel had an epic conclusion, that will leave you screaming why. Valley of Decision is an amazing read, I expect many more wonderful stories from this author.

\*\*Disclosure\*\* This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Litfuse.

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

The most hardest part of getting involved in any series, is that one day it has to come to an end. Sometimes you want to refrain from picking up the final book because if you have truly come to love the characters, you know this is the conclusion to their story. They're not just characters in a book to you. You've come to know them, to care about them and to know what motivates them and those are the earmarks of a fine novel and an exceptional writer. If you're looking for such a series, I would encourage you to pick up the Carthage Chronicles from Lynne Gentry. It's both a bit of science fiction, involving time travel and historical romance, as the characters are traveling back to ancient Carthage and find themselves so involved in that culture, they don't wish to return.

In the conclusion to this series, Valley of Decision is that place where all of our beloved characters have once again been transported back to Carthage and must make some defining life choices, to stay where their hearts call them or to head back to the present day and hope they can convince those that they care about to join them, but to do that, would forever change history. Is the risk worth it in the end? This is not a series you can pick up any of the novels and jump right in, hoping there is enough of a back story to help move you forward in the novels. You must begin with the first one as any great adventure would suggest. But trust me when I share with you, it will be so worth the time to do so. For those of us, that have been reading them as they are published, the wait has been long in between, but with each novel, it simply gets better and better.

In Valley of Decision, Magdalena has been arrested for the death of the proconsul Aspasia, whom she tried to save by amputating his leg, but when he succumbs to complications due to the time frame they are living in and lack of surgical sterility. Now she must try and find a way to save her life if she is to continue her fight to save the city of Carthage from the disease of typhoid and measles that threatens to destroy the city. Her granddaughter Maggie, now 18, has run away back to Carthage in hopes of not only saving Magdalena but also her father Cyprian whom she just met when accompanying her mother Lisbeth Hastings more than a decade ago. She knows her mother would never approve but she must do what she can to help in any way possible, with the time she has left if the history books are correct and her father has less than a month before he is condemned to death.

I received Valley of Decision by Lynne Gentry compliments of Howard Books, a division of Simon and Schuster Publishers and Litfuse Publicity for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation outside of a free copy of this book for my review and the opinions expressed here are my own honest and personal ones. I won't give away the ending but it is so worth reading this entire series. I am sad that the journey is over, but it was well worth the wait between all the novels to experience what it might have been like living in the third-century with the tremendous amount of research that Lynne did to enable this novel and her characters to become simply more than words on a page. In my opinion, this one easily earns all 5 out of 5 stars. There is a Reader's Discussion Guide at the conclusion as well as some great questions that Lynne Gentry takes the time to answer about this amazing series.

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### **Beth says**

I received this book from Litfuse Publicity for no charge in exchange for my honest review of this book. The

opinions expressed here are my own.

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#### My Thoughts:

Valley of Decision is the third and final book in Lynne Gentry's series The Carthage Chronicles and all I can say is OH MY GOODNESS!!! As a huge fan of Christian Historical Fiction, The Carthage Chronicles series had me hooked. This book and series is a perfect blend of past and future. Lynne Gentry seamlessly transitions between the two worlds and brings them together perfectly. In Valley of Decision it is Thirteen years later and Lisbeth has moved on with her life knowing she can never see Cyprian again. Now their daughter is 18 years old and decides in a hasty decision to go back to the third century to save her father and

bring him back to the present. Lisbeth finds herself heading back to the third century, this time with her father in tow. It is thirteen years later in the present but in the past it has been less than a day. Maggie finds out her grandmother, Magdalena is on trial for her life and Maggie's father is her legal counsel even though he has his own worries for his life. Maggie tries to save her grandmother and her three friends with the help of 2 men who have feelings for Maggie and the diversion they create starts riots and destroys the one thing the new proconsul loves. Now it is in question whether anyone will survive and how they will get back to their own times.

I had the privilege of reading all three books in this series and wow, each one was better than the last. The Valley of Decision brings this series to an explosive, unexpected end. The story picks up right where the second book ended and so much is in chaos. Lynne Gentry writes with authority on archeology, art from both past and present, our world past and present, and time traveling. Lynne Gentry does what not many authors can and that is flawlessly transition between the past and present, making time traveling seem possible. This book and series had me on the edge of my seat, guessing until the end. I could not put the books down and could NOT wait for the next one to be published. I enjoyed all of the characters in this book and series, a great mixture of characters from completely different times brought together. I enjoy Lynne Gentry's style of writing and really learn a lot from her writing as a craft and through historical facts. She brings together the perfect blend of fact and fiction, I found myself looking up and learning so much about our history especially as Christians and the struggles they faced. I am sad that the series has ended but enjoyed every minute of it. I HIGHLY recommend this book and series to anyone who enjoys Christian Historical Fiction, you will NOT be disappointed. I do recommend reading the books in order. I cannot wait to read what Lynne Gentry comes up with next! I give this book and this series 5+ STARS!!

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### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Valley of Decision (The Carthage Chronicles #3)

Author: Lynne Gentry

Pages: 367

Year: 2015

Publisher: Howard

Wow! What a great trilogy of books that Lynne Gentry has written! I would advise reading the books in order, beginning with The Healer of Carthage, then Return to Exile and finally ending with Valley of Decision. The story continues throughout each book, so if readers don't begin with book one they will be lost as to the history of the cast of characters.

Book three begins with only a day passing in Carthage, but thirteen years have passed in the present time. Maggie feels extreme guilt and shame for forcing her mother to leave her father when she got so sick with typhoid in book two. She misses her father and wants to reunite her father and mother. She takes off for the past without telling anyone with the intention of bringing her father back to the present. However, once she arrives in third century Carthage, she discovers life in this time has not changed as quickly as she has. She reunites with her father, Barek, and some other characters from book two while telling her father her plans for them. Her father disagrees, but Maggie is very stubborn.

Soon Lisbeth and her father arrive in Carthage. Lisbeth plans to take everyone back to modern times, but knows Cyprian will refuse to go. She tried to rewrite history the last time she came to Carthage without

success. Lisbeth and her mother once again use their healing skills to help the residents of Carthage battle measles and typhoid; both diseases are killing off the population of Carthage. Lisbeth's mother, Magdalena, has been arrested for the murder of the proconsul and Cyprian has agreed to represent her. What follows is an emotional trial, leading to a riveting ending of the series.

Lynne Gentry writes with great skill, making me care about the characters in her stories as well as making me feel a part of the stories. I loved traveling to ancient Carthage and seeing how people lived then. What an adventure! I also greatly admired the transformation of Cyprian from the greatest solicitor in Carthage to one of the leaders of the early Christian church. His strength and faith in God against persecution was amazing. I can't wait to read what Lynne Gentry writes next!

My rating is 5 stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **(Liene) says**

First off, Lynne Gentry's writing is awesome. The story came to life with it! The characters felt real and the setting was very convincing. Each view point had its own personality and style, while all in the same author's wonderful writing.

The message in the story was also inspiring. It's great to read a novel that is about God, about true faith in Him and the willingness to go to any lengths to do what it is He has called us to do. I appreciated this a lot while reading and I admit, I cried. I don't cry when reading, only twice in my life have I cried from a book. Though, admittedly, I didn't cry at the story this time, but of what it made me think about. I love it when a story makes me feel, and boy, did this story make me feel.

I would have given the book a 4 star rating, for this alone, maybe even a 5 star one. But, sadly, it took me 2 months to get through this story.

That being said, there were two things that bothered me. I had a hard time reading the book, I put it down a lot and then took a while to get back to it each time. Two reasons for this.

One, the pacing. It took a long time for a lot to happen and if asked to recount the story, it would take me 10 seconds to give all of the plot points. Don't get me wrong, a lot happened, but, not much happened. It was a bit slow paced for me. I don't know how to explain this, but for those who have read the book, I'll put what I mean under a spoiler (view spoiler)

And two, Maggie (and one other person at times) used language that wouldn't be realistic to use in ancient times, in Latin. They are all supposed to be speaking Latin, and while I don't claim to be an expert on languages or anything, phrases and expressions are very hard to translate into any language, even if both languages are meant to be understood by modern time citizens. But if Maggie was trying to say the expression "Lighten up" in Latin, she would have had to translate it first, since it is an English expression. And while thinking of how to say it in Latin, she would have decided not to, because it would be hard to do, especially when trying to say it to a 3rd century citizen. She couldn't just say those kinds of phrases without thinking about them first, since even when I try to translate expressions and phrases, like that one or "chain

smoker" and many others throughout the book, it takes a while and is often not even possible, and I have more than one mother tongue, making me fluent in more than just English.

I get it, Maggie is a colorful person and I really did like Maggie, she was a great character to read from, and I felt for her, a lot! Her style of talking was very specific to her and made her who she was. But it just doesn't work if you're speaking a different language, especially in the 3rd century. It's not about the fact that people didn't understand those phrases back then, that I would understand, but about the fact that it would be hard to say them at all.

I did guess how it would end, for both Lisbeth and Cyprian and Maggie, but I didn't mind that too much, I loved the message of it all!

Overall, I did like this story and am glad to have read the trilogy! :)

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### **Marguerite Gray says**

Even though I'm finished with this series, the characters are swimming in my head. Now I will finish their story in my imagination. I appreciate the author sticking to historical data even if the tears flow.

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### **Sarah says**

I'm going to be honest. My brain is spinning while I'm trying to gather enough words to write a review for this book that has left me emotionally rocked and asking difficult questions. I don't even know where to begin. How do I describe this story that has me reeling, trying to avoid crying for a fictional character, and replaying sections of it endeavoring to figure out where I became so attached? What can I say that will do it justice?

I should probably note that there are two other books in this series, *The Healer of Carthage* and *Return From Exile*. All three books follow the adventures of Lisbeth Hastings and Cyprian Thascius in third century Carthage. Each of these stories have touched me in some manner, but this one pretty much knocked the wind out of me for a few moments. I found myself so engrossed in this book that I read it in little more than a day and had to struggle to pull myself away from it. Forget about focusing on anything else, I was so entrenched in my reading that I would look up and blink a few times, trying to make sense that I wasn't in Carthage with them. Lisbeth may have time-traveled to the third century, but I think I took that trip with her.

Ms. Gentry, as usual, has outdone herself with this book. Her writing is superb and she brings Carthage to life in such a way that I would almost swear I'd be there myself. There were several times when it was as though I could almost smell the eucalyptus used in the vaporizer pots and feel the discord running through the city. I've loved being pulled into the journey that flows through three books and finally climaxes in an ending that made me want to pitch it across the room. Before I deter anyone with that comment, I'm going to continue by saying that my remark is more of a testament to just how wonderful a job Lynne has done with this series. I have to be deeply attached to the characters to prompt that reaction from me, so well done Lynne!

Lisbeth and Cyprian have been favorites of mine from the start, but in this book we also get to know a grown-up Maggie and Barek, as well as knowing Lisbeth's parents a bit better. I loved the new depth Lynne adds to each of her stories, expanding them and drawing more characters to the forefront until it's not just Cyprian and Lisbeth's story, but it's about so many people that their lives have touched along the way. I'm

honestly not sure there's much more to say about these two people, because I've talked about them quite a bit in my reviews for the two previous books. They are constantly growing and changing throughout each book, but in small ways that you'd really have to read the books to know, as my explanations wouldn't come even close to doing them justice.

I think if I had to choose one reason that I love Lynne's books so much it would have to be this: they challenge me. They force me to ask questions and reevaluate some aspects of my life. They are so real and sometimes raw that I believe it's almost impossible to remain unaffected. After I had turned the final page of this one, I just sat there for a few moments, trying to wrap my brain around what had just happened. It seemed hard to believe it was over, but then I feel that way about any book I fall into. They never seem long enough and I feel a bit bereft for a while afterward. I'm sure this will be one that sticks with me for quite a while as I mull the words within, the ones that have caused me to stop and think, to look to God for answers, or to simply ponder the questions Lynne's words inspire.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author for my honest review, which I have given. I was not required to write a positive review and have not been compensated for it in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Beth says**

Despite returning to third-century Carthage to rescue her husband Cyprian, Lisbeth made the choice to leave him behind for good to save her daughter Maggie's life. Over the next thirteen years, Lisbeth devotes herself to her work and raising Maggie, her final tie to Cyprian. Maggie, however, is tired of Lisbeth's hovering, and in an act of rebellion, decides to return to the third century in order to bring her father back. Lisbeth is left with no choice but to follow. With Maggie's return to Carthage, chaos reigns. Her grandmother is on trial for murder, and a failed attempt to save her sparks a riot that almost destroys the entire city. The new proconsul of Carthage will only be satisfied with the death of the rebellion's instigator. Will Lisbeth arrive in time to save her daughter from her unwise decision and the dangers of Rome?

Many twists, turns and riveting action characterize this conclusion to *The Carthage Chronicles*. Though years have passed for Lisbeth and Maggie, in Carthage it has been only a short time since they disappeared. Once again, the story sweeps readers into third-century Carthage in all its opulent, yet ruinous, glory. Lynne excels at displaying these characteristics throughout the story, again skillfully highlighting the jarring discrepancy between the common people and Roman elite. The glaring difference this time is that sickness is spreading, and it is no respecter of persons, targeting both the elite and common. Meanwhile, there is a new proconsul, and he is out for blood to squash the support of the well-loved former solicitor, Cyprian, and the beloved healer, Magdalena. Though there are several characters to keep up with, it never feels overwhelming while reading. They are all dynamic and add greatly to the story. There are a couple of secondary characters, both new and returning, that I really came to admire and appreciate their roles.

That being said, there were a couple of things that kept me from truly engaging in this story as I had the previous two books. I really struggled in the beginning to feel hooked. One reason is the pacing, especially with the beginning. A lot of time is spent on Lisbeth and her father traveling back to Tunisia in order to go back to Carthage after Maggie. We know even before starting that Lisbeth will make it back to Carthage. The time spent getting to that point felt unnecessary. Secondly, while I really enjoyed the historical details and the exciting moments of the story, I found the storyline overall to be predictable. Several plot elements from the second book felt repeated. Though a lot of action is happening, the pace feels slower because many of the characters had already been through something similar in the first book.

I also found it odd that the modern characters insisted on using lingo and euphemisms from the present day. I understood that all of the characters were supposed to be speaking Latin. I'm sure Latin has lingo and euphemisms, but it just felt jarring that the characters kept using them in these settings, knowing that the Carthage characters wouldn't understand the term behind it. This is mostly seen in Maggie's character and is probably a device to show her youth, but it does feel overdone.

Despite the couple of qualms I had with the story, the overall message is quite beautiful. I think the ending does a wonderful job in driving it home, that God is always with you in the darkest times. Cyprian has come to a point in his faith that He fully trusts God no matter what. His character is truly inspirational, and I appreciated that Lynne doesn't change history in regards to the real-life Cyprian. It makes for a heart-wrenching end and certainly isn't the typical happily-ever-after, but it is so moving, and ultimately triumphant. Although I did know what was coming in some respects, I was surprised at the decision that Lisbeth made in the end – a decision that turned out to be needed and perfect for the end of Lisbeth's tale.

I'm glad that I had the opportunity to read the Carthage Chronicles. From the intriguing detail of time travel, the engaging historical details to the remarkably inspiring characters, Valley of Decision is a satisfying conclusion. If you're looking for a compelling story about the early years of Christianity, this is a good series to pick up.

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### **Caryl says**

I am now an emotional wreck! This story of true love and steadfast faith is one that will stay with me for a long time.

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### **Staci says**

Valley of Decision was the final book of The Carthage Chronicles Series.

While I enjoyed Valley of Decision, I didn't like it nearly as much as Healer of Carthage. One thing I love about historical fiction is the educational aspect. I learned a great deal from the Healer of Carthage about medicine and treatments used in 3rd Century Carthage. Valley of Decision didn't bring about any new learning.

The story line was interesting, but predictable. We knew what would happen in the end.

While this particular novel wasn't as good as the first two books of the series, I definitely recommend the entire series. I eagerly anticipate Lynne's next novel set in the Middle East during WWII.

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Lynne Gentry in her new book, "Valley Of Decision" Book Three in The Carthage Chronicles series published by Howard Books continues the story of Dr. Lisbeth Hastings.

From the back cover: Can true love survive the test of time?

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This is the third book of The Carthage Chronicles series and if you have not read the previous two books I recommend you do that first. "Valley of Decision" is a great ride that is going to sew up all the outstanding elements of this series! There is all kinds of danger, Maggie's grandmother is in danger and in an effort to protect her causes a bit of chaos with her punishment being death. Lisbeth has to go back in time again to protect everyone but this is not going to be easy. Ms. Gentry has given us an action adventure tale that will get your nerves all jangled as you read furiously trying to keep up with the story. And there is the romance. Plus this is a thriller that just drips with suspense so be prepared. I guarantee you, you will not be disappointed in reading this book. Maggie, Lisbeth, Cyprian and the whole cast of supporting characters are marvelous and they live and breathe on these pages. I am glad I found this wonderful author and, while I am sorry to see this series end, I am so looking forward to the next series that she will grace us with!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Litfuse Publicity Group. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Lynn says**

3.5 stars out of 5, rounded up to 4.

In some ways, this book met every single expectation I had for it. In others ... it didn't.

On the good side, all the characterizations were spot on, as usual. Also, Carthage itself continued to be a character in and of itself, with its rich surroundings. Having Lawrence there also added to the feel of it all, semi-seeing it through his archeologist eyes.

A LOT of questions were answered in this book. Also, there was a tie-in between the past and future, caused by Maggie, which was what started the whole time-travel incident to begin with.

The prose was, as usual, very rich and evocative. Lynne Gentry has a gift for writing things in ways that's sure to draw the desired emotion out of her readers - I pretty much ran the gamut of emotions through this one, more so even than the previous two.

Despite all the good things, though, there were a few things which disappointed me - and not even the things you might think. Like the character death toward the end, which wasn't really that big of a surprise, all things considered. It didn't make me mad, and it wasn't really hugely disappointing, for a number of reasons.

Now that Maggie's back in the past as an eighteen-year-old, obviously she's drawing some attention from the guys. This, I think, detracted from the book rather than added to it. Barek and another character, introduced toward the start of the book, formed a kind of love triangle with Maggie. While it was cute in places, there were other times when it just kind of dragged down the plot and really got on my nerves.

Despite the mostly consistently great characterization, there were a couple things which bothered me. After the trial, what happened to Pytros? We know he wasn't actually free, he lied about that. But what happened to him? Did he get trampled in the crowd? Did he take the chance the chaos offered him and truly escape? Did Maximus get his hands on him and start using him as his new slave? So. Many. Unanswered. Questions!

And then there's Maximus's wife. When he was sent to Carthage, she was forced to stay behind with her harpy of a mother. Okay, great. But what happened to her and her baby after her husband's suicide? Granted, I don't know if there could have been a good way to tell us what happened and make it fit in the book without feeling like a rabbit trail or whatever, but it bothers me that we don't know.

And what about Kardide, Iltani, and Tabani? Were they allowed to stay with Magdelena? Or did they have to return to be slaves to the new praetor, after Maximus died?

This doesn't really bother me in the same way as other things, but sometimes characters' conversions to Christianity feel a little ... convenient. My favorite is definitely (view spoiler)

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### **Trixie says**

It's been 13 years since Lisbeth and Maggie have returned from 3rd century Carthage. Long years separated from their beloved husband and father Cyprian, mother & grandmother Magdelene, Barek their family friend, and other Carthage citizens they have grown to love and care for through the devastating plague of typhoid. Maggie, now 18 and learning of her father's fate, takes matters into her own hands and returns to the past to try to stop it & change history. Unbeknownst to her mother & G-pa, she leaves the college she is attending, and travels to the place where the Cave of the Swimmers exists. From there, she lands back into Carthage not knowing that her grandmother has been arrested for the murder of Aspasia (the proconsul). Will fate be on her side, or does God's plan still stand for those she loves?

This was a roller coaster of emotions for me! I was so intimately involved with each character, feeling everything they felt, seeing the things they were seeing & raging at the injustice done to their loved ones! From the very first day Maggie landed in Carthage, to the final page of this book, I was invested in this story & couldn't put it down. I wanted desperately to know what the ending was, but at the same time, wanting to savor every last word! More than once I found myself with tears running down my face or laughing & cheering along with the characters! This book will pull you in, shred your heart, and put it back together whole and new again! But you won't be left without a scar to remind you of this very emotional conclusion to a well written series. I strongly suggest you read the first two books "Healer of Carthage" & "Return to Exile" so that you get that depth that only comes from reading each book. You will fall in love with each character, envision ancient Carthage with its vivid details, and learn some history of this time period. Lynne doesn't spare any detail, you will want to come along for the ride she'll take you on! This is a highly recommend series for those who love a rich depth of character, realistic details, ancient historical places and Biblical truths played out in what feels like a very real manner! If you are a Christian, you will find your faith strengthened & God's truths echoed in your heart. You do not want to miss this, I believe Lynne is a gifted storyteller used by the Lord to touch lives!

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\*\*I was given a complimentary copy of this story for my honest opinion and review, to which I have provided here! Thank you Lynne Gentry and Howard Books (an imprint of Simon & Shuster Inc.) for a satisfying read!\*\*