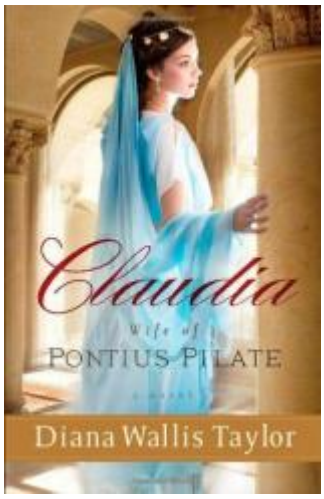
Claudia, Wife of Pontius Pilate

by Diana Wallis Taylor



About the Book

She's never been in control of her own life --- but can she truly surrender all to a stranger in a strange land?

Claudia may be of royal blood, but she has spent her childhood in a guarded villa with her exiled mother and her grandmother. When Emperor Tiberius wrenches Claudia away from her reviled mother, Julia, to be brought up in the palace in Rome, the young woman is adrift --- until she meets Lucius Pontius Pilate and becomes his wife.

When Pilate is appointed Prefect of the troublesome territory of Judea, Claudia does what she has always done: she makes the best of it. But unrest is brewing on the outskirts of the Roman Empire, and Claudia will soon find herself and her beloved husband embroiled in controversy and rebellion. Might she find peace and rest in the teaching of the mysterious Jewish Rabbi everyone seems to be talking about?

Let this epic story whisk you through marbled palaces, dusty marketplaces, and idyllic Italian villas as you follow the unlikely path of a woman who warrants only a passing mention in one of the Gospel accounts, but whose story, as told by Diana Wallis Taylor, is one worthy of legend.

Discussion Guide

1. What was your early impression of Claudia's mother, Julia, and her grandmother, Scribonia? What led to Julia's exile?

2. How do you think being taken from her mother and raised in the palace shaped Claudia's character?

3. Do you believe it was a love match between Lucius and Claudia, or did she learn to love Lucius?

4. What do you think Sejanus had in mind when he introduced Claudia to Lucius?

5. Remember Claudia was only sixteen. How would you have handled the sudden departure of your bridegroom on the day of your wedding and the long delay in joining him?

6. What was the reason for the constant moving between Jerusalem and Caesarea? How did Claudia handle that?

7. What drew Claudia to seek out Jesus? How did Lucius react to the miracle?

8. Do you feel Lucius tried to save Jesus? What shows you that he did? Why then did he give in to the Jewish leaders?

9. Just when Lucius thought he was safe, what happened? Why did Caligula act as he did?

10. Do you think Lucius committed suicide? Why or why not?

Author Bio

Diana Wallis Taylor is the author of JOURNEY TO THE WELL, MARTHA, MARY MAGDALENE, and CLAUDIA, WIFE OF PONTIUS PILATE; has published many articles; and has contributed stories to several books. Taylor lives in California.

Critical Praise

"Diana Wallis Taylor has written another stunning and powerful novel of controversy, romance, and rebellion, this time focusing on the life of Claudia… Meticulous research, drama, and passion hold readers to the page in this exquisite tale of inspiration and intrigue. Buy a copy for yourself and for a friend."
— Karen O'Connor, author of WHEN GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS

"Expertly researched, Diana Wallis Taylor's CLAUDIA, WIFE OF PONTIUS PILATE takes the reader into the very heart and soul of an obscure New Testament woman whose few but compelling words have captivated readers for centuries. Inspiring and imaginative."
— Susan Meissner, author of THE GIRL IN THE GLASS

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