



# THE CLEOPATRA

## LITERARY CONTEST FOR YOUNG WOMEN

This literary contest is named after the inspirational Cleopatra VII of Egypt, who was an author of books about cosmetics, pharmacology and weights & measures. Established and sponsored by author Stephanie Dray, the competition is aimed at discovering and mentoring aspiring young female writers. In particular, the award seeks to foster new voices with an appreciation for women's history.

### Eligibility

- Females between the ages of 13-18 for the teen category
- Females between the ages of 19-22 for the young women's category
- This is an international contest, so writers outside of the US are eligible
- No entry fee is required; no purchase required
- Entrants retain all publication rights to their work

### Visit the Website

**CLEOPATRACONTEST.COM**

### Other Contest Sponsors Include

Rosemary Clement-Moore, RITA award winning author of *The Splendor Falls* \* Louisa Edwards, author of the well-received *Just One Taste* \* Gwen Hayes, author of the much anticipated *Falling Under* \* Mindy Klasky, award-winning author of *To Wish or Not to Wish* \* Sarah MacLean, New York Times & USA Today Bestselling author of *The Season* \* C. Lee McKenzie, multi-published author of *The Princess of Las Pulgas* \* Cindy Pon, author of the critically acclaimed historical fantasy *Silver Phoenix* \* Sydney Salter, multi-published author of humorous YA novels including *My Big Nose and Other Natural Disasters* \* Jeri Smith-Ready, award-winning author of *Shade* \* Rebecca York, New York Times Bestselling author of *Dragon Moon*

**Teen Category Winner:** Choice of \$100 cash or a new e-reader, in addition to an award certificate, a month-long writing mentorship with Ms. Dray, a feature article in her blog and newsletter, and a critique from NY literary agent, Jennifer Schober of Spencerhill Associates.

**Young Women Category Winner:** Choice of \$100 cash or a new e-reader, in addition to an award certificate, a month-long writing mentorship with Ms. Dray, a feature article in her blog and newsletter, and a critique from NY literary agent, Jennifer Schober of Spencerhill Associates.

**Finalists:** Feedback from publishing professionals, mention on Ms. Dray's blog and newsletter, an award certificate, and a free book courtesy of contest sponsors.

### Themes

Submissions must echo themes explored in Ms. Dray's novel, *Lily of the Nile: A Novel of Cleopatra's Daughter*, including, but not limited to: The world of Cleopatra Selene, Women in Ancient History, Female Spirituality, Gender Roles Then and Now, Survival vs. Honor, The True Meaning of Home, Courage & Ambition, Betrayal & Forgiveness, Secrets & Deceit.

### Contest Rules

1. Short stories, essays, poems, and excerpts from novels and novellas are welcome, in any genre, as long as they focus on one of the themes listed above.
2. All contest rules must be observed and all eligibility requirements met.
3. Entries must be original English works. Plagiarized work will not be tolerated and entries cannot have been previously published or purchased by professional media.
4. Entries are limited in length to 2,000 words. No cover letter is necessary. Send entries to [cleopatracontest@gmail.com](mailto:cleopatracontest@gmail.com) with the subject header: Contest Entry
5. Entries must include the author's legal name, a pen name (if any), valid mailing address, telephone number, email address, a word count, and the age of the author.
6. Entries should be included in the body of the email; please don't include any attachments.
7. All announcements regarding this contest will be made via Ms. Dray's newsletter, so entrants must join at [www.stephaniedray.com/newsletter](http://www.stephaniedray.com/newsletter). The official rules and most updated information can be found at [www.cleopatracontest.com](http://www.cleopatracontest.com).
8. Entries must be received no later than 11 PM EST March 1, 2011. Contest sponsors and judges assume no responsibility for lost entries or technical difficulties. Semi-Finalists announcements are tentatively scheduled for May 1, 2011 & Finalists on August 1, 2011.
9. Only one entry per author and all entries must be the final version. No revisions will be accepted once the entry has been submitted.
10. Entries will **NOT** be judged by Ms. Dray, but by other published authors and industry professionals. The decisions of the judges are entirely their own, and are final.
11. Contest judges reserve right to close contest before the deadline if overwhelmed by too many entries, so get yours in early!
12. By entering, you agree to indemnify all sponsors of this contest from any liability arising out of the submission. If a dispute arises it shall be resolved individually or subject to binding arbitration in Baltimore County, Maryland. Participants also agree that under no circumstances will they be entitled to claim punitive, incidental, or consequential damages, or any other damages, including attorneys' fees, other than participant's actual out-of-pocket expenses (if any, and there should be none) associated with the contest, and participants hereby waive all rights to have damages multiplied or increased.
13. This contest is void where prohibited by law.

**"Selene's life is a lesson to us that the trajectory of women's equality hasn't always been a forward march. In some ways the ancients were more advanced than we are today; there have been setbacks before and may be more in the future."**

~Stephanie Dray, author of *LILY OF THE NILE*