

# CLEOPATRA 54-52 BC

## *Romance Collection*

### *Temple Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*

~or~

### *Shuttup And Kiss Me*

Valentine's Day can be really difficult at times. There are lots of Romances to choose from. Why not pick quirky funny ones? The fact that it's different than everything else means you put some thought into it. Good luck!

This collection of light hearted romance short stories is set in Ptolemaic Egypt, around the time Cleopatra VII is co-regent beside her father, Ptolemy XII. Cleopatra is only fifteen years old, but her father, the Pharaoh, has dumped administration of the entire empire in her lap, as she performs much more effectively than he ever did. No stretching of history necessary.

However, the stories aren't about Cleopatra: she may be running the show, but she's frantically concerned with restoring a bankrupt empire. She may set wheels in motion, but the stories concern common people, not pompous elitists or royals. It's an exotic backdrop for a woman dominant culture, but it reveals that across thousands of years people really are all the same. Priestesses, widows, working girls, scribes, sailors, retired tomb robbers, a soldier, a warrior, fisher boys ... everyone needs a little romance (or a lot, as the case may be).

Women in Egypt had more rights than any other culture until the United States in the 1950's. They call the shots, men just move the furniture. This puts a definite spin on the progress of romances. See how Cleopatra attempts to use relationships to assure loyalty. Witness how a huge Macedonian warrior is turned to a puppy by a small Kushite woman. Will a stubborn career woman finally give in? Will a working girl be able rise above her past? Will a well meaning man be able to make up for an enormous mistake in his past?

There's plenty of bare-chested guys in kilts, they just don't have tartan patterns. It's hot in Egypt.