

CLEOPATRA 52-51 BC

Tales of Batnoam the Amazing Sailor

~ or ~

Stuff Just Happens to Me

Marian Marion Kebab

These are Sinbad type stories, with the addition of light humor and romance. Sail the Mediterranean in first century BCE and deal with high seas, pirates, slavers, seductresses, men lost at sea, a man with unbelievable luck (good and bad) and some pretty remarkable cetaceans. It is not a sequel to prior books: it just further explores the ancient world canvas.

Join priestesses, scribes, sailors, fisher folk, and the physicians of Alexandria in wry tales of love, adventure ... and a really inconvenient curse (or is it?). Struggle with languages. See a whole village of purebred women anxious for offspring from a single unwilling man. Explore the cave that leads to Hades, where costumed temple-staff play a game of make-believe. Realize the complex intelligence network of the time with high ranking priestesses of various deities who just can't seem to keep their hands off one sailor. Learn how love notes can be hidden in tiny intelligence messages transported by pigeons. Witness the creation of the first graphic novels.

This is a continuation of the "Young Cleopatra" series. It only contains Cleopatra in cameos, but continues the stories of some characters in her court, and adds a few. Adult situations but nothing vulgar. Not for the kiddies.

As in other books of the series, everything happens within the context of first century BCE and Cleopatra's court. There's lots of things that didn't happen, but there isn't anything that *couldn't* have happened ... well, maybe except *one* thing.

While Batnoam is out gallivanting about, the intelligence network supported by temples, oracles, and sibyls keeps close tabs on his activities. It's remarkable because the glorified mail runs usually avoid trouble, and don't warrant any pigeon updates. Trouble seems drawn to him. He provides useful information about pirates (at least, where they *used* to be) and winds up providing an almost continuous non-stop interesting narrative. He can be thousands of miles away and his paramour keeps up to date within a week or so. Pigeon scripts from Spain can make it to Alexandria within 4-5 days with changes of pigeons: try that with snail mail. With close stops in Greece, pigeons can make any city in a day.

Batnoam's last voyage results in a population of young people that try to find careers ... and romance ... in Alexandria. They all have their own lives and goals ... and are intertwined.

None of the characters speak like Shakespeare or upper class elitists. Even royalty sounds like your next door neighbors. Throw on a beige kilt or sheath dress ... or cut up a flour sack to make a sailor tunic ... and join them.