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Call To Juno (A Tale Of Ancient Rome Book 3)



Synopsis

• An elegant, impeccably researched exploration of early Rome... Elisabeth Storrs weaves a wonderful tale • Kate Quinn, author of The Empress of Rome saga Four unforgettable characters are tested during a war between Rome and Etruscan Veii. Caecilia has long been torn between her birthplace of Rome and her adopted city of Veii. Yet faced with mounting danger to her husband, children, and Etruscan freedoms, will her call to destroy Rome succeed? Pinna has clawed her way from prostitute to the concubine of the Roman general Camillus. Deeply in love, can she exert her own power to survive the threat of exposure by those who know her sordid past? Semni, a servant, seeks forgiveness for a past betrayal. Will she redeem herself so she can marry the man she loves? Marcus, a Roman tribune, is tormented by unrequited love for another soldier. Can he find strength to choose between his cousin Caecilia and his fidelity to Rome? Who will overcome the treachery of mortals and gods? Call to Juno is the third book in the Tales of Ancient Rome saga, which includes The Wedding Shroud and The Golden Dice.

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Customer Reviews

Call to Juno is a magnificent novel of the war between Rome and its close neighbor, the Etruscan city

of Veii which took place between 406 and 396 BC. It is dramatic, impeccably researched and a compelling read. Storr renders the cultural and religious practices of both Romans and Etruscans in stunning detail. The ancients had a wide choice of which gods to worship and the heroine of the story, Caecilia, chooses to adhere to the religion of Fufluns, equivalent to the Greek god Dionysus, on the basis that in his follower's ideation, family members are reunited in the afterworld. This, unfortunately leads her to neglect the goddess Uni, (Roman Juno). Efforts to placate the goddess will come too late. Caecilia was married to the Veientine Vel Mastarna against her will, to secure a peace between the two cities. Mastarna was twenty years her senior and was a widower. She comes to love him, however, and when war breaks out, once again, between Rome and Veii, she chooses to remain by his side, incurring the enduring wrath of her Roman kinfolk. She bears him three sons and a daughter. Although separated by only ten miles, Rome and Veii were very different linguistically and culturally. Latin was an Indo-European language spoken by people in Latium and related to other indigenous languages of Italy. The Etruscan language, on the other hand was an isolate, belonging to no family of languages. Genetic studies of the people of Etruria reveal that they probably migrated from someplace in what is now Turkey. The Etruscans developed an advanced and sophisticated culture and probably considered the Romans backward. There were profound differences between the two cultures in how they viewed women.

Review of Call to Juno by Elisabeth Storrs
Call to Juno is the third in Elisabeth Storrs's series set in both in the Etruscan city of Veii and ancient Rome. The opening book built an unlikely love story between Roman Caecilia and the Etruscan warrior Vel Mastarna. They were forced into a marriage to build an uneasy peace between their cities, but now in the third book, that peace is long gone. The compelling love story between a man and woman has expanded to the children and extended family they share and the heavy responsibilities as rulers of a Veii under siege that they carry together. Over the course of this series Storrs builds a vivid picture of the beauty and grace of the Etruscan world "which we know will crumble eventually under Rome's mighty hand. That ephemeral quality of this exquisite place and time enriches the emotional resonance of the complex bonds and loves that Storrs brings to life. Even the scornful Romans who view the Etruscans as degenerate and effete stop in amazement when they enter Veii and see how much grander and elegant it is than their own capital of Rome. What would our world today be like if the Etruscans, not the Romans had prevailed? Perhaps far more beautiful and gracious. Storrs intrigues her reader with details about things like an Etruscan lady's make-up and dress, and she contrasts them with the prim and misogynist Roman standards. Various modern parallels will occur to the reader and this

adds depth to the reading experience. Early in Call to Juno Caecilia enters the great temple of Uni in order to placate the goddess.

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