

The Forgotten Daughter Study Guide

The Forgotten Daughter by Caroline Dale Snedeker

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Plot Summary

"The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker is a Newberry Honor Book. It is also a historical novel for young adults. It details the life of Chloe, a simple slave girl, raised as a slave without the knowledge of her Roman father, Livaeus.

When the novel begins, Chloe is a twelve-year-old girl who works as a slave on the Villa Carracinia with her caretaker, another slave named Melissa. Melissa and Chloe's deceased mother Chloe, are Greek slaves captured by Chloe's father, Livaeus, who supposedly abandoned his wife and her mother years before, only to remarry, raise a new family, and fight in Egypt. Chloe's life as a slave is brutal, and she is constantly beaten. She flees to the freedom and security of the mountain forests whenever she can.

Chloe falls in love with Aulus Cornelius, from the next villa over, from afar. Years pass, and Aulus goes away to fight in Spain, and comes home to defend conservative politician Tiberius, who wants stolen lands returned to peasant Roman farmers. Aulus is banished from Rome when the Senate murders Tiberius, and he flees to his family's villa following the death of his mother.

At the villa, Chloe rescues Aulus from a stag trap and the two instantly bond over poetry, music, and philosophy. They fall in love, and agree to marry. But when Aulus is recalled to Rome, Chloe believes she, like her mother, has been abandoned, and so she and Melissa attempt to flee to Greece, but are captured and returned. Back at the villa, Chloe confronts her real father, who has fled fever epidemics in Rome. Laevinus reveals that his family had forbidden his marriage to Chloe, and believed both mother and daughter to be dead in childbirth. Laevinus and Chloe then become father and daughter, and Laevinus takes care of Chloe. He ultimately sanctions and blesses Chloe's marriage to Aulus, who returns from Rome after all.



Chapter 1 - 9

Chapter 1 - 9 Summary

In Chapter 1, twelve-year-old Chloe lives and works as a slave weaver in the Italian region of Samnium in an old hut halfway up a mountain. In Roman law, she is of age to be married, and lives with Melissa, a thin, middle-aged slave weaver who teaches Chloe how to weave. Chloe struggles with the task. Their overseer is a man named Davus, whom Chloe hopes will not notice her mistakes. Chloe is of Greek origin, from her mother's side, who came from the island of Eresos. Melissa sings to Chloe about the island.

In Chapter 2, as Melissa sings of Greece, Chloe learns about her heritage and her culture. Chloe's father is Laevinus, who helped chase after pirates, one of whom is Elpenor. Elpenor is hidden by his brother, Anaxion, in a cave. Melissa continues weaving as she sings, and Chloe asks Melissa to sing of the summer and the grapes.

In Chapter 3, Melissa sings of summer coming to Eresos. Chloe, Anaxion's daughter, and the younger Chloe's mother, as well as Melissa, the older Chloe's dearest friend, are captured by Roman soldiers for use as slaves from their vineyards. The older Chloe confronts Laevinus, demanding to know what has become of her father. Laevinus explains that Anaxion is dead as he deserves. The younger Chloe begs Melissa to continue the story.

Laevinus' Roman ship carries the mother Chloe, Melissa, and the other new slaves from Greece, but is taken over by a storm. Laevinus confesses to Chloe that he did not kill her father, but others had. Laevinus also discovers that the ship's captain has lost his way, and the ship will founder on the rocks of Halonnesus. Chloe nominates Kelus to command the ship, for his knowledge of the sea, and Laevinus trusts Chloe's judgment. Chloe is almost killed by a falling mast, during which time Laevinus helps to free her, confesses his love to her, and begs prayers for her. The ship continues through the storm to a sheltered bay.

In Chapter 4, on shore, Laevinus tells Chloe he will marry her. Back in Rome, Laevinus and Chloe are wed and continue on with Melissa and the other slaves to the Villa Caracinia, Laevinus's simple farmstead. Laevinus at once begins to better the villa. Laevinus's father is a governor in Spain. Under Chloe and Laevinus, the farm thrives. Chloe gives birth to a boy, who dies within three months. The tragedy drives Laevinus to depression and being harsh with the slaves. Laevinus heads to Rome one day to sell a good yield of woven garments and wool, but never returns. The one night, Davus arrives, who is apparently the new owner of the villa. Chloe is heartbroken to learn that Laevinus has remarried in Rome, and has gone to Egypt with his troops. Davus sends Chloe and Melissa to the hillside hut.



In Chapter 5, Davus himself interrupts the telling of the story, and is incensed that the younger Chloe and Melissa are singing. Davus savagely beats both Melissa, and little Chloe. After Davus leaves, Melissa and Chloe comfort one another, and Chloe eventually falls asleep.

In Chapter 6, the baby Chloe is born, and the mother dies. Melissa buries her outside the hut. Laevinus has sent his brother to the villa to learn of the baby, but Melissa, fearing harm, hides the baby in the forest. It is revealed that Davus is merely an overseer, and that Laevinus still owns the villa. As the infant Chloe grows, so does hatred of her father. From time to time, Melissa and Chloe go down to the villa for supplies. There, they always talk to Robina, another slave, who is the cook. While there, with most everyone gone for the holiday, Melissa shows Chloe her mother's old rooms. Chloe also finds an old portrait of Laevinus. Robina allows Chloe to take her mother's old Apollo figurine. Robina says she will cover for Chloe and Melissa, telling Davus that she broke the statue while cleaning. Melissa and Chloe return to their hut, and decide to hide the statue in the cave part of the hut.

In Chapter 7, Saturnalia, the December holiday in honor of the god Saturn, arrives. Robina brings her daughter Byrsa to be watched over, so that the drunken Romans, slaves and others down by the villa won't harm her in any way. Byrsa is a fat girl that Chloe has longed to be friends with. Byrsa is appalled by the simple altar constructed for the Apollo statue, but goes outside with Chloe to play. Byrsa, against Chloe's warnings, goes into a stream and almost drowns, but Chloe saves her. The two girls decide to play farm.

In Chapter 8, six weeks later, Byrsa is sold, and Chloe never sees her again. Robina is beside herself with grief, and Chloe and Melissa do their best to comfort her. The average price of a slave is eighteen cents. Unknown to Chloe, her grandfather, Marcus Laevinus Ibero, father of Laevinus, dies. His will affects the fate of Chloe. Davus, and a number of other slaves, are freed upon Marcus's death. Bion the Boetian is appointed to overseer in his stead. Bion brings Melissa and Chloe the news. Bion, who respected Chloe's mother, will perhaps be a better overseer. Melissa brings to the hut a goat and a kid, and Melissa and Chloe see to the creature's injuries. Chloe decides to name the mother goat Psappa, after the poetess Sappho, and the baby goat Cleis, the daughter of Sappho. Chloe begins leading them to and from pasture, and it brings great joy in her life.

In Chapter 9, Melissa and Chloe create some baskets which Bion sells at market. Melissa and Chloe also weave a hive and attract bees. Robina comes up to see how things are, and is given milk and honey by Chloe and Melissa. A youth named Geta comes up to the hut at the behest of Robina, and builds a wall and gate across the mouth of the cave for the goats. Geta comes up on his own the next day to build a place for Chloe to weave outside, and kisses her on the cheek.



Chapter 1 - 9 Analysis

The first nine chapters of the book deal with the harsh realities of Roman slave life. Startlingly, the reader discovers in Chapter 8 that the average price of a slave on the Roman markets is eighteen cents. Chloe, a slave girl born of a Roman father, endures the same cruel treatment as other slaves do. Chloe hates the overseer, and Rome, with a passion. She longs to be free and to return to Greece, the ancestral home of her deceased mother.

Indeed, the tale of Chloe's existence, and that of her mother's love for Laevinus, are tragic and compelling to the reader. Indeed, Chloe hates her own father, coming across his portrait, and being able to see him in her mind thereafter. The hatred that fuels Chloe along mostly disappears with the departure of Davus. Chloe is able to learn to take joy in simple things and now has a purpose in life.

The joys of Rome's slaves are few and far between, but are warmly embraced by the slaves themselves. With the removal of Davus and the installing of Bion as overseer, Chloe therefore delights in being able to care for bees and goats, and is happy with her existence in the hut with Melissa. Indeed, as Chloe grows, it appears as if she has a suitor in Geta, whom Chloe despises.



Chapter 10 - 18

Chapter 10 - 18 Summary

In Chapter 10, under Bion's leadership, the villa begins to thrive, and the slaves are happier. Once Chloe finishes the work set for her, she is free to spend the rest of the day as she chooses. Chloe's work and skill improve dramatically. Chloe uses her time to explore the mountainside forest, and becomes free during her times of exploration.

In Chapter 11, Chloe uses as much of her time as she can to go on adventures in the forest. Chloe believes there is a forest nymph protecting her, and names the forest "Escape". As Chloe grows older, she begins caring for her physical appearance and becomes beautiful. The number of goats Chloe and Melissa care for expands to five. Bion comes to visit Melissa, and overhears how beautifully Chloe sings. Bion suggests Chloe marry his older brother, and ask Laevinus to send his brother to the farm.

In Chapter 12, the harvest begins, and the slaves see to the crops. They enjoy a sacrificial feast, which is also attended by the young master, Aulus Cornelius, his mistress Verania, his mother, and two little girls. Chloe comes to detest Geta's advances on her. Up in the mountain forest, Chloe sees the son of Aulus Cornelius and his procession heading toward their own villa. But Chloe is saddened when the Cornelii return to Rome.

In Chapter 13, Aulus Cornelius Maro, after three years of soldiering, is headed home to Rome. Marching with Tiberius Gracchus before, Aulus overhears Tiberius become saddened by the demise of the small family farm and the number of unemployed in Rome living off the public dole. Aulus is summoned to Rome by Tiberius for help. Aulus's father is strict, his mother is kind, caring, and intelligent. Aulus is trained intellectually by the Greek philosopher Panaetius. Aulus can speak both Greek and Latin, and adheres to Stoicism -showing no emotions. In Rome, Tiberius addresses the public. and Aulus rushes off to hear the speech.

In Chapter 14, Tiberius speaks to the people of Rome, asking why the rich expect the soldiers to fight without thought of reward. Tiberius wants to know where the small family farms have gone. Small family farms cannot compete against slave-labor villas. Aulus shouts that a vote be called, and the Senate agrees to a vote the next day. Tiberius confides in Aulus that the vote will come down to the will of Marcus Octavius. Tiberius asks Aulus to dine with him that evening, along with other respectable members of the Roman Republic. Aulus then heads home, where he tells his mother all about his travels, his battles, and his life in Spain.

Aulus's family is divided. His older brother, Gnaeus, runs with a crowd of rich, partying elitists, while Aulus himself maintains ties with conservative and traditional people. Aulus promises his mother he will not drink, that the Stoics will win out over the drunkards.



Aulus's father opposes reform, not because he favors the rich, but because reform opposes the will of the Senate.

In Chapter 15, Aulus successfully calls upon Octavius, and then meets Publius Laevinus on the way home. Laevinus's daughter Livinia will be marrying Gnaeus. Aulus wonders to his mother if Laevinus has ever been to his Samnian villa, but his mother explains that he has never been there. Aulus wants to bring Laevinus to their own family villa.

Rome relies on its armies to maintain everything it has conquered. Yet the governors, generals and the armies returning home are treated with suspicion, disdain, and contempt by the Senate. Octavius, when the vote comes, votes against reform, shocking everyone. The people are enraged, and Tiberius knows action must be taken. He proposes a new bill, in which stolen lands are returned to the farmers, with no compensation for the wealthy landowners. Octavius again refuses to side with Tiberius. Octavius is then voted out of office.

In Chapter 16, Mucius, an client of Tiberius, is elected to take Octavius's place. There is victory, and the people are happy, and Aulus is elated. Tiberius, his younger brother Caius, and Claudius Appius are appointed commissioners to oversee the return of the farmlands to the farmers. Yet, Tiberius makes many enemies with the majority of the Senate for his decisions and his popularity with the people. Aulus and his slaves foil a plot to murder Tiberius, and Aulus becomes a bodyguard to Tiberius thereafter. The Senators spread rumors about Tiberius, that he wants to be king. Tiberius goes directly to the people, winning their support, but not their emotions. When Tiberius reveals the death plots, the people become angry, and work with Aulus to protect Tiberius.

In Chapter 17, Aulus's mother, Cornelia, has become sick. She is very concerned for the well-being of Aulus. A soothsayer foretells an ominous prophecy, and Tiberius's guards are unnerved by superstition. The treasure of the dead king Attalus, left for Rome, is to be voted on. Tiberius speaks to the people, but the Senators and their hired assassins attack. Aulus is knocked out fighting to defend Tiberius with the others, but Tiberius is killed. Aulus knows his family and his home are in danger when he awakes. He rushes home to find the house nearly deserted, except for a slave girl. Everyone is hiding in Laevinus's house, and Laevinus is away. Aulus's mother, Verania, is dead. But Aulus is told to flee Rome for their remote villa in Samnium. He does so.

In Chapter 18, two days later, at night, Aulus arrives at the Villa Cornelia. He tells the servants he has come back because of sickness. At twenty years old, Aulus's life seems over. Word is sent from Rome that he has been banished by name, as have all of Tiberius's followers. Aulus contemplates suicide, but decides against it. Bion, from the next door villa, helps assist Aulus with messages and money from Rome. Robina sees Aulus out and about one day, and relates his presence to the rumors of his arrival to Melissa and Chloe. Chloe rushes off to see if Aulus really is there. He is, and Chloe is delighted. But Chloe sees in Aulus Cornelius a sadness, not present when she had seen him before. Melissa does not like Chloe spying on Aulus, because Aulus is connected with scandal. Bion confesses the truth of it all to Chloe, who promises to



keep it a secret. Indeed, Aulus's defense of the farmers and of Tiberius improves her opinion of him.

Chapter 10 - 18 Analysis

The dual story of conservative soldier and political advocate Aulus is also demonstrated in succeeding chapters. Aulus longs for a return to a simpler, agrarian-based Rome, as does his mentor, Senator Tiberius. The presence of the character of Aulus serves to provide an interesting mirror portrait of Chloe.

Aulus, a soldier and a Roman citizen, is supposedly free to live his life as he pleases. But his place of service, Spain, is decided for him; and he is bound to the laws of Rome, placing a check on absolute freedom. He is further bound to the whim of his strict and overbearing father. Indeed, it can be argued that Aulus -and Laevinus, as it will later become known- is no less free than his slaves, and perhaps, no more free.

Aulus's decision to side with and defend Tiberius and his populist allies costs him his ability to live in Rome, as Aulus is banished from the city. He has, therefore, essentially lost all of his freedom, for he is an outlaw. He could be murdered at any time at the behest of the Roman Senate. Suddenly, Chloe's position as slave seems much more appealing than does Aulus's position as a Roman citizen.

Aulus's return to the Villa Cornelia has also piqued the interest of Chloe, who has been in love with him for years, and never thought she would see him again. Chloe can see that Aulus is visibly shaken by something, and a meeting of both mirror images can only be a matter of time.



Chapter 19 - 27

Chapter 19 - 27 Summary

In Chapter 19, Senator Nasica, the leader of the conspiracy against Tiberius, is so hated in Rome that he has been sent to Africa for safety. Aulus feels happy that the Senate has also dared not revoke the reforms. As he goes out walking, he looks at the forested mountain and sees a beautiful overlook he intends to purchase from Laevinus, and climbs up. Yet, he falls into a trap for a stag, and becomes stuck, having hurt his arm. Chloe, meanwhile, finishes up her work for the day, and heads out into the forest.

In Chapter 20, Chloe comes upon Aulus, who urges her to get help from the villa. But Chloe goes down into the pit, finds a knife, and works to free Aulus. Aulus promises to reward Chloe, who goes to get Melissa to see to Aulus's arm. Melissa brings Aulus to the hut, where she sets Aulus's arm with Chloe's help. Chloe and Melissa, however, want no reward.

In Chapter 21, the depression and loneliness in Aulus begin to subside, and he decides to follow up a study of law. He also begins dreaming of Chloe setting him free. Aulus returns to Melissa to see how his arm is mending, and overhears Chloe's beautiful singing. Aulus is impressed by her voice, and by the neatness of the hut. Aulus is told his arm is healing perfectly, and he is extremely grateful to Melissa. Aulus and Chloe also begin talking, and Chloe reveals she has minimal knowledge of plays and songs. Aulus compliments their Greek island home of Eresos, Chloe sings to him again in a way that Melissa has never before heard her sing.

In Chapter 22, Aulus begins to realize he favors the company of Chloe and Melissa, and then berates himself for relying on slaves for friendship. Bion explains to Aulus the past of Chloe, and Aulus is outraged that Chloe could be neglected in such a way. After that, Aulus does not feel as though he is associating with slaves. Aulus decides to go and visit Chloe and Melissa once more. He now views Chloe as a free Roman, who has incredible skills at singing and weaving. Aulus reads to Chloe, so she can learn more songs and more poetry. The two of them talk, and Aulus reveals his hatred of Rome. Chloe is overjoyed that Aulus will never want to go there. Aulus continues reading to her. They act out the parts in the play.

In Chapter 23, Aulus realizes he feels alive once more, and is beginning to feel happiness again. Over time, Aulus and Chloe grow closer, and he becomes happier and happier. She becomes happier and happier with his visits. Aulus, meanwhile, begins making something of a name for himself in law, and he agrees to defend a farmer whose land is being unjustly seized. Aulus wins the suit, but his absence brings fear and unhappiness to Chloe. Chloe confides this unhappiness in Aulus, who realizes that Chloe truly does care for him. But Chloe is still sad, having feared Aulus had gone back to Rome.



In Chapter 24, Chloe confesses her love to Aulus the next day, who confesses his love in turn. Chloe explains she has been in love with Aulus for three years. Aulus will marry Chloe, and he wants her to come live at the Villa Cornelia with himself, and Cornelia Gracchus, mother of Tiberius. Chloe eagerly and nervously, looks forward to it.

In Chapter 25, Aulus receives a letter from his father, who is actually proud of Aulus's defense of Tiberius. Aulus's father wants him to return to Rome and hold public office. He realizes that Chloe could be his wife in Rome, and his father in such a kind mood, would approve. Aulus tells Chloe everything, which in turn horrifies her. She feels deceived because Aulus wants to go to Rome, and knows how much opposition there will be between Aulus's marrying a slave. Chloe tells Aulus that if he goes to Rome, he will be like Laevinus, and he will never return. She says she will not die like her mother. Aulus is heartbroken, and rushes off. Chloe realizes instantly what she has done.

In Chapter 26, Aulus leaves for Rome. Chloe is helplessly sad. She feels Aulus will never forgive her, and never return. Bion is called to Rome by Laevinus, and in his place comes the efficient Battarus. Battarus decides Chloe will marry Geta, takes away their herd of goats, and orders them down to the slave quarters with everyone else. Chloe decides she and Melissa will run away, and they prepare for such a journey. Chloe dresses up like a boy. Melissa wants to return to Eresos by way of Poseidonia, where her uncle lives. They escape and journey for three days. They run out of food, and Chloe becomes fearful.

In Chapter 27, Melissa and Chloe become beggars as they journey, eventually finding the house of Kleus. From there, a slave named Pheres and his trick dog, Trick, guide them to the sea. They earn their money by performing, and travel on. But in Poseidon, Melissa and Chloe are apprehended by one of Davus's old hands.

Chapter 19 - 27 Analysis

Slowly, things begin to improve in Rome, and this leads Aulus to decide that he will pursue the study of law. As he does so, he meets Chloe after falling into an animal trap, and the two of them quickly befriend one another. Aulus and Chloe are drawn to music, poetry, philosophy, plays, and other elements of Greco-Roman culture. The two of them fall in love, and agree to marry. Finally, Aulus's banishment is rescinded, and he must head to Rome to see his father. Chloe believes that her mother's life has become her own, and rather than be forced into an arranged slave marriage, flees.

Indeed, the continuation of events and circumstance around Aulus provide even more evidence that his is not as free as slaves might believe him to be. Just as easily as Aulus is banished, he is restored -and so too can he be banished once more. Aulus is further beholden to the wishes of his father, whose summons Aulus must answer. Chloe and Melissa, meanwhile, continue fleeing for Greece, but are captured by one of Davus's old assistants.

With Aulus gone to Rome, and the path to freedom blocked, it appears as if Chloe and Melissa will have no choices at all anymore. Aulus once again becomes more envious to the reader, for he is not so bound by slavery of the same sort.



Chapter 28 - 29

Chapter 28 - 29 Summary

In Chapter 28, Melissa and Chloe are returned to their villa, one month after they have left. Chloe has lost weight and is pale; Melissa is in ill-health. Robina orders them up to the cabin, because a slave quarters is no place for a sick woman. News comes of a terrible fever in Rome, and Laevinus is returning to the villa to escape it, for his whole family has died. Chloe comes upon Laevinus coming up the mountain. Chloe confronts him, angry at his having caused her mother's death. But Laevinus says that Davus has lied about the past. Chloe confesses to Laevinus that she is his daughter. Laevinus explains that he sent his brother to save Chloe and her mother, and Laevinus's father sent Davus to expose the scandal of a child between a slave and a master. Laevinus promises to take care of his daughter from then on.

Chloe tells Melissa what has happened, and Chloe tells her father that Bion has cared for them and he saved her life. Bion promises to care for Melissa, whom Chloe will not be without.

In Chapter 29, Chloe is given her own room, new clothes, and is cared for by her father, Laevinus. He explains he was away so long in Rome because his father kept him there under penalty of death. Only after the death of Chloe's mother, and the supposed death of Chloe, did Laevinus remarry. Melissa begins getting better. Chloe, who is then seventeen, must be given up for marriage. Chloe doesn't want to be married right away, and Laevinus consents to waiting, and to freeing Melissa.

One day, Chloe sees Aulus in his field, and she runs down to meet him. He embraces her with open arms, and accepts her back at once. Chloe reveals everything that has happened. Laevinus then gives his blessing to Chloe and Aulus to marry.

Chapter 28 - 29 Analysis

The ultimate truth of Chloe's existence and the abandonment of her mother are revealed. Laevinus, bound like a slave to his father and his family, is told his wife and infant daughter are both dead. Laevinus therefore has no idea that Chloe even exists, and begins a new family, and heads to Egypt to serve with his century of troops.

In a stunning move of kindness, based primarily upon the lack of freedom in his own life, Laevinus not only frees Melissa, but agrees to bless and sanction the marriage between Chloe and Aulus, whose own father is arranging a bright future for him. In so doing, Laevinus is able to give to his daughter everything that he was himself, denied. Chloe, both as slave and Roman, now has more freedom than either her mother, father, or soon-to-be-husband, ever had.



Characters

Chloe the Younger

Originally twelve years of age, small, and timid at the beginning of the novel, Chloe is the daughter of Chloe, a Greek slave girl, and her Roman husband, Laevinus. Chloe's mother, dying of heartbreak after the abandonment of Laevinus, leaves Chloe to be raised by her dearest friend and fellow slave, Melissa, in the hut overlooking the Villa Carracinia. Chloe grows into a beautiful young woman of seventeen, who learns how to sing and absorbs what scant intellectual knowledge comes her way.

Chloe enjoys going into the forest, and living out as much of her time there in freedom as she can. Back at the villa, she is beaten savagely by the overseer Davus, and then later cared for by Bion, the successive overseer. Chloe tends bees and cares for her goat, all the while continue to weave for the villa. At a young age, she falls in love with Aulus Cornelius, the young master of the villa next to theirs. Years later, when Aulus has been banished from Rome, Chloe frees him from a trap, and helps Melissa set Aulus's broken arm.

She and Aulus find common ground in matters of culture, from poetry and plays to philosophy, and the two hit it off. They agree to marry. When Aulus is recalled to Rome by his father, Chloe fears she has lost him forever. Rather than submit to marrying another slave, Chloe flees for Greece with Melissa, but is caught and returned. Aulus also returns, and their romance begins once more.

Chloe also confronts her father, learning that her father's family kept him from her mother. Chloe is brought down to live at the villa as the legal daughter of Laevinus, who blesses and sanctions the marriage between her and Aulus.

Chloe the Mother

Chloe, the mother of Chloe, is a Greek girl from the island of Eresos, where she is forced into slavery by Laevinus. After helping to save the ship during a storm, she and Laevinus fall in love, marry, and oversee the Villa Carracinia. However, Laevinus is called away by his father, who does not approve of the marriage, and Chloe gives birth to Chloe in his absence, but soon after dies of heartbreak.

Laevinus

Laevinus is the Roman military officer who cracks down on piracy, raids Eresos, and takes dozens of people into slavery. He notices the beauty of Chloe immediately, and the two fall in love and marry after she saves their lives on a ship during a storm. Under their oversight, their villa flourishes. Called away to Rome by his father, Laevinus is told



his daughter and his wife are both dead, and so he remarries, has a new family, and goes to fight in Egypt.

During the fever outbreak in Rome, his entire family is killed, and Laevinus flees to his villa, where he meets his daughter, and tells her the truth of their past. He then embraces Chloe, promising to always care for her and love her. She is happy to have him, and he blesses the marriage between her and Aulus.

Melissa

Melissa, originally from the Greek island of Eresos, is a slave and surrogate mother figure to Chloe, the daughter of her best friend, Chloe. Melissa is loving and caring, and oversees Chloe's development into young womanhood. She attempts, with Chloe, to escape to Greece, but is captured in the process, and becomes ill. At the insistence of Laevinus, Melissa is brought back to health, and is then liberated.

Robina

Robina is the slave cook at the Villa Carracinia, and makes sure Chloe and Melissa have enough to eat. She also covers for Chloe by allowing her to take her mother's Apollo statue back up to their hut. Robina has a daughter named Byrsa, whom she feeds and makes sure is healthy. Byrsa is later sold elsewhere because of her good health, and Robina is left heartbroken.

Byrsa

Byrsa is the chubby, well-fed and well-kept daughter of Robina. Byrsa and Chloe become friends, but shortly thereafter, Byrsa is sold elsewhere.

Aulus Cornelius

Aulus Cornelius is the scion of the Cornelius family, and the younger master of the Villa Cornelia. He has spent three years in Spain as a soldier, and is the love interest of the slave girl Chloe from afar. Aulus is a conservative, traditional Roman, who wants to see stolen lands returned to the poor, and corruption in the Senate reformed. He becomes the chief bodyguard of Tiberius, a conservative populist Senator, who believes in the same things. When Aulus defends Tiberius against an attack, he must flee Rome, and is thereafter banished.

Hiding out at his family's estate, Aulus meets and befriends both Chloe and Melissa, after Chloe saves him from a stag trap. Aulus soon realizes Chloe is in love with him, and he falls in love with her. They agree to marry. When Aulus is summoned to Rome by his father, announcing his banishment has been rescinded, Chloe is heartbroken and attempts to flee to Greece with Melissa. Both of them are captured and returned. Aulus



also returns, and embraces Chloe with open arms. They agree to still be married, and receive the blessings and sanction of Laevinus.

Davus

Davus is the dastardly, brutal overseer who beats Chloe and Melissa for idling at work. He is the slave of Laevinus and his family, and is the source of the rumor that Laevinus has left Chloe for another wife.

Kleus

Kleus is the Greek navigator who Chloe nominates to steer Laevinus's Roman slave ship safely through the storm. He later serves as a source of food, help, and encouragement to Chloe's daughter, Chloe, and Melissa on their escape.

Tiberius

Tiberius is the conservative and traditional Roman Senator who is at once both loved by the people and despised by the Senate. Tiberius makes enemies quickly of those he seeks to undo, mainly the rich elites who have stolen land from the poor Roman family farmers -land which Tiberius wants returned. Aulus befriends and defends Tiberius when the Senate conspires to kill him. Tiberius is, ultimately, assassinated by a Senatorial conspiracy.



Objects/Places

Villa Carracinia

The Villa Carracinia is the family estate of Laevinus's family and is located in the Samnia region of Italy, beside the Cornelius family estate of Villa Cornelia. Villa Carracinia is where Chloe is born, her mother dies, and Chloe is raised as a slave. It is also where she first meets her father and receives his blessing to marry Aulus.

Villa Cornelia

Villa Cornelia is a family estate located in the Samnia region of Italy, beside the Villa Carracinia. It is the home to the Cornelius family, and where Aulus seeks refuge after being banished from Rome. It is also the future home of Aulus and his soon-to-be wife, Chloe.

Samnia

Samnia is a region in Italy, south of Rome. It is mountainous and forested, described as beautiful, and is the location of the Villas Carracinia and Cornelia.

Rome

Rome is the capital city of the Roman Empire, governs all of Italy, and all of Roman-conquered lands surrounding it. It is a den of vice and corruption, and is feared by the younger Chloe. Rome is where Aulus defends Tiberius. Aulus is ultimately banished from and restored to Rome.

Italy

Italy is the country in which Rome and the region of Samnia are located. It is from Italy that Chloe and Melissa want to flee and go to Greece.

Poseidonia

Poseidonia is a Greek-oriented Roman coastal town from which Chloe and Melissa seek to make for Eresos. It is also where Melissa and Chloe are captured and returned to their villa.



Eresos

Eresos is the Greek island city-state and home of Melissa and Chloe, and the ancestral home of Chloe's daughter, Chloe.

The Hut

The hut, located on a forested mountainside in the Villa Carracinia, is the home of Chloe and Melissa. There, both slaves practice their weaving, care for goats, and tend to bees.

Knife

A knife is found and used by Chloe to cut Aulus free of the stag trap nets that have ensnared him.

Letters

Letters are the primary means of Roman communication, and come and go all the time. Aulus keeps in touch with Cornelia in Rome by letters, and is summoned by his father to Rome through a letter. Chloe wishes she could write, so that she could pen a letter to Aulus, asking for his forgiveness and begging him to come back.

Scrolls

The book of the ancient world, scrolls are long papers made out of a variety of materials. Scrolls record plays, philosophy, laws, and stories and are read to Chloe by Aulus.



Themes

Love

Love is a major theme and guiding force in the novel "The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker. It exists predominantly in the life of the younger Chloe and in that of her mother, the elder Chloe, and irrevocably changes the course of events of their lives.

For the elder Chloe, there is no greater force than love in her life. Stolen into slavery, Chloe falls in love with the Roman centurion Laevinus, her captor. He is kind and decent toward her, especially after she recommends Kleus to steer the slave ship through the storm into safe harbor. The two become inseparable, and rather than use Laevinus's love for her against him by asking for freedom, Chloe instead chooses to marry him. Yet, Laevinus's father does not approve of the match, and withholds his son's return from Rome, sending Chloe into heartache. She dies soon after giving birth to their daughter, also named Chloe.

For the younger Chloe, love is not the tragic force that it has been for her mother. Chloe, who has been raised as a slave girl, falls in love with the younger master of the villa beside hers, Aulus Cornelius. Aulus, in distress, is rescued by Chloe, and the two of them hit it off immediately. They are drawn by their common love of culture, primarily poetry, plays, and philosophy. They enjoy one another's company, and grow closer, and ultimately agree to be married. But Aulus's return to Rome at the behest of his father sends Chloe into a state of shock and depression, and she endeavors that she will only ever belong to him. A month passes, and upon Aulus's return, they agree to marry once more, and Laevinus gives his blessing to the two.

Family

Family is a dominant theme in the novel "The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker. It inhabits every aspect of the book, and proves to be the catalyst for many events that transpire. It exists in both positive and negative ways.

In terms of negative ways, family serves as a sort of prison. Laevinus, supposedly a free Roman, is nevertheless controlled by his ultra-traditional father, who forbids him to carry on his marriage to Chloe. Laevinus is then pressed into Roman public service, where he remarries, and later goes to Egypt with his century of troops. Because of the stifling control of his family, Laevinus loses his first real love, Chloe.

In terms of positive ways, family serves as a herald of love and freedom. The younger Chloe, whom has never known her mother, knows Melissa -her mother's friend- as a sort of surrogate mother, and a friend of her own. This makeshift family unit of Chloe and Melissa is one that brings sorely-needed love and companionship into Chloe's life. When Chloe and Aulus agree to marry, they receive the blessings of Laevinus, who will



not deny his daughter what was denied to him. Indeed, because of family, Chloe will have a wonderful life with Aulus.

Aulus himself is the recipient of positive family encouragement, from his mother, who watches out for her son and encourages him as he progresses through life. Cornelia, mother of Tiberius, becomes a surrogate mother to Aulus, sending him money, letters, and watching out for him from Rome. Further, Aulus's own strict father proves to be a role model and a source of affection following the death of his wife. Aulus's banishment from Rome is overturned at the behest of his father, which paves the way for a better life for Aulus and Chloe.

Freedom

Freedom is the third major theme that is consistent throughout the novel "The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker. It concerns primarily four of the characters: both mother and daughter Chloe, Aulus, and Laevinus.

Freedom is desired by Chloe and the other slaves. It is something they want more than anything else. Indeed, when Chloe heads into the mountain forests near the hut, she becomes free, and can wander around and adventure at her own will. Even though she is bound to the villa by means of slavery, she is arguably more free than her father, and Aulus.

From the standpoint of the master-slave relationship, Laevinus and Aulus are free Roman men who rule over slaves and other nations. Yet, Laevinus is bound by arcane Roman tradition, espoused by his father, and his relationship with the elder Chloe is terminated. His freedom -to love, marry, and raise a family of his own- are not in his hands. Indeed, as soldiers, both Laevinus and Aulus have little choice in their theaters of service. Aulus must serve three years in Spain; Laevinus is sent to Egypt, more than likely through pressure from his father. Aulus and Laevinus are both bound by the laws of the Roman Republic, many of them corrupt, and some of them in need of the reform that Aulus supports. Though one can argue that Aulus and Laevinus are not free, one cannot argue that they are any less free than their slaves.

Yet one can also argue that they are no more free than their slaves. When Aulus and Laevinus are summoned to Rome by their fathers, they must go. When they are told where to serve, they must go. When they are bound by laws that impinge their rights, they must nevertheless obey. When they are arranged in marriage, they must consent. The same is true of slaves, barring the intervention of their masters or family. In the end, Chloe will not be forced to marry against her will, and Aulus will bring her to live at his villa, right next to Laevinus's. Melissa is set free, but is paradoxically then bound by the laws and customs of Roman society, for Roman free men.



Style

Point of View

Caroline Dale Snedeker tells her novel "The Forgotten Daughter" from the third-person and omniscient narrative, focusing around the two main characters, Chloe and Aulus. This is done for two primary reasons. The first is because the novel is historically-based, and a lot of information must be explained to the reader in order for the reader to understand the context of elements of the plot. The second is because of the number of characters that populate the book would make first-person narration incredibly difficult to navigate, in conjunction with the historical setting. As such, Snedeker's use of the third-person and omniscient narrative works perfectly for the story.

Setting

The setting of Caroline Dale Snedeker's novel "The Forgotten Daughter" is that of late Republican Rome, in the Italian region of Samnia. The setting of the novel works well for at least two reasons. First, in that the late Republican period in Rome was an era of great changes, and a clamor for reform. While certain traditions are pressed for, such as the return of stolen lands to family farmers, other traditions are seen as arcane and are largely forgotten, such as marriage between a master and a slave being utterly and totally impossible. This makes the romance between Chloe and Aulus plausible. Secondly, while Rome presents a stifling set of chains in terms of elitist power, parties, and corruption, the rural, mountainous Samnia represents freedom, purity, honesty, and healing. Aulus comes to Samnia for healing, and it is in Samnia where Chloe is discovered and restored to her rightful place as daughter of Laevinus.

Language and Meaning

Caroline Dale Snedeker tells her novel "The Forgotten Daughter" in prose which is intelligent and gently poetic. This is emblematic of any sympathetic, learned Roman, such as Aulus; and common for a mildly-educated dreamer like Chloe. Indeed, Aulus and Chloe connect culturally, between songs, plays, and philosophy. They also appear to connect on a level of conservatism -Chloe longing for her Grecian roots, while Aulus years for an honest, simpler, and agrarian-based Rome.

Structure

Caroline Dale Snedeker tells her novel "The Forgotten Daughter" with a structure that is simple and straightforward -that of chronological chapters. This is done in order to progress the myriad and wide-ranging events of the books. It is also done so as not to tie down the reader with complicated structures and parts, thereby making ancient places, terms, cultures, societies, laws, and practices much easier to understand. The

reader is thus free to focus on and navigate the plot, and not be distracted by some unnecessary, complicated structure.



Quotes

"Slavery was like this. We say we have slavery today in factory and machine shop -but slavery was different- slavery was like this" (Chapter 5, p. 25).

"The slave was res - not persona - a mere chattel. Roman slave-owners were advised to keep them at work every minute of every hour. When they were worn out, to sell them" (Chapter 8, p. 41).

"It is strange how people try to mend their lives when the garment is torn to shreds. It is strange, too, how life's garment, unlike human weaving, grows whole with the mending" (Chapter 9, p. 49).

"Where are our small Roman farmers? Aulus, if we have no more farmers we will soon have no more Rome. Not a farm! Not a farm" (Chapter 13, p. 73).

"Days of tensivity and excitement and the low underground thunder of dread, days of triumph that clashed in his heart like cymbals. It seemed as though men made these events. Partly they did. But it was really a nation going over the brink. Rome, the Republic, would never be the same again" (Chapter 15, p. 89).

"How happily he had come home to Rome! How full of joy and well-wishing! And how, a huddled, hunted figure, he fled from the city he loved, with no hope, no desire to return" (Chapter 17, p. 114).

"Aulus had been taught that love was at best a foolish and dangerous passion. But in this song, love was different from that. High and eternal" (Chapter 22, p. 141).

"As for Chloe's lonely romantic situation, it was like a piece of poetry" (Chapter 22, p. 145).

"Chloe stood in the same spot as if stunned. Of all the terrible things that had happened to her in the last month this was the worst -that Laevinus should appear. It was as if her whole world had suddenly turned upside down" (Chapter 28, p. 188).

"It was a new vilicus. Oh, he was going to marry me to Geta =and I could only belong to you" (Chapter 29, p. 203).



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the topic of family in the novel "The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker. In what ways does family appear in the novel? Where does the concept of family fail, and where does it succeed? Why?

Who is to blame for the misfortune of Chloe in the novel "The Forgotten Daughter?" Is it Laevinus, Davus, or someone else? Explain and support your answer.

In what ways does the theme of love appear in the novel "The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker? Where does love exist, and between whom? Which characters possess true love for one another? Why is this so?

Discuss the theme of freedom in the novel "The Forgotten Daughter" by Caroline Dale Snedeker. Despite her slavery, is Chloe truly free? Why or why not? Despite Aulus's freedom, is he truly free? Why or why not? Of both characters, which do you consider to be freest? Why? Provide evidence to support your claim.

One of the things granted by Chloe's father, Laevinus, is the freedom of Melissa. Why does Chloe ask for this? Why does Laevinus grant it?