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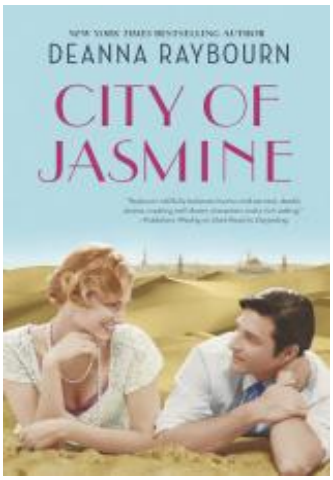
City of Jasmine

by Deanna Raybourn



About the Book

In a story set against the lush, exotic European colonial outposts of the 1920s, *New York Times* bestselling author Deanna Raybourn delivers the captivating tale of one woman who embarks upon a journey to see the world --- and ends up finding intrigue, danger, and a love beyond all reason.

Famed aviatrix Evangeline Starke never expected to see her husband, adventurer Gabriel Starke, ever again. They had been a golden couple, enjoying a whirlwind courtship amid the backdrop of a glittering social set in prewar London until his sudden death with the sinking of the Lusitania.

Five years later, beginning to embrace life again, Evie embarks upon a flight around the world, collecting fame and admirers along the way. In the midst of her triumphant tour, she is shocked to receive a mysterious --- and recent --- photograph of Gabriel, which brings her ambitious stunt to a screeching halt.

With her eccentric aunt Dove in tow, Evie tracks the source of the photo to the ancient City of Jasmine, Damascus. There she discovers that nothing is as it seems. Danger lurks at every turn, and at stake is a priceless relic, an artifact once lost to time and so valuable that criminals will stop at nothing to acquire it --- even murder. Leaving the jewelled city behind, Evie sets off across the punishing sands of the desert to unearth the truth of Gabriel?s disappearance and retrieve a relic straight from the pages of history.

Along the way, Evie must come to terms with the deception that parted her from Gabriel and the passion that will change her destiny forever...

Also discover the eBook prequel novella, WHISPER OF JASMINE!

Discussion Guide

1. Evangeline Starke is a dynamic young woman with all of the energy and spirit of the 1920s. How does she embody those qualities?

2. How do Gabriel?s experiences as the Saqr change his views on British involvement in Syrian affairs?

3. Gabriel and the Lost Boys of the Vespiary did dangerous work during the war. What challenges might they face in adapting to life after the fighting stops?

4. Damascus is a city at the crossroads of history. How does the political climate of Damascus in 1920 influence the characters?

5. Honor and duty play a strong role in the book. How do the characters view their own responsibilities? How far will they go to satisfy honor?

6. Evie and Gabriel are reunited after life-changing events. How have the years in between affected the dynamic of their relationship?

7. How does the Badiyat ash-Sham, the great Syrian desert, function as a character in the story? What does their time in the desert reveal about Gabriel and Evie?

8. What is Evie and Gabriel?s potential for a happy ending?

Author Bio

Deanna Raybourn is the *New York Times* bestselling and Edgar® Award?nominated author of the Veronica Speedwell mysteries, the Lady Julia Grey series, and several stand-alone novels, including KILLERS OF A CERTAIN AGE. She lives in Virginia with her family.

Critical Praise

?With a strong and unique voice, Deanna Raybourn creates unforgettable characters in a richly detailed world. This is storytelling at its most compelling.?

? Nora Roberts, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

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