



Aloha everyone!



In Honor of Women's History Month, I'd like to highlight three women that are my personal favorites.

- Cleopatra, last Pharaoh of Egypt
- Queen Elizabeth I of England
- First Lady Anna Elenore Roosevelt

These women altered the world for the better. Their strength taught me early, what a powerful woman looked like and what she was capable of doing. Submissive and obedient they were not.

What these amazing women had in common was **Perseverance and Determination**.

Cleopatra was the last Egyptian Pharaoh; 5 BC-30 BC. She ruled twenty-one years till her death. She was Greek not Egyptian and the product of incest; her parents were brother and sister.

Did you know that Cleo spoke 12 languages, was a commanding Politian, a scholar, an author and a mathematician? In the looks department, Elizabeth Taylor she wasn't. Her intellect, voice, charm and theatrics was what seduced Julius Cesar and Mark Anthony; the most powerful men in Rome.

Cleopatra's foresight and shrewd negotiations, brought Egypt it's wealth and independence.

Queen Elizabeth I ruled England for 45 years; 1558-1603. Liz is my personal favorite. Her extravagant wardrobe was made up of gowns covered in pearls and embroidered with gold. A woman after my heart. Her gowns were a political statement. They symbolized England's wealth and power. Unfortunately, after her death, not one of them remained. To my dismay, they were taken apart and sold.

Queen Elizabeth never signed any document at the bottom of a page. She believed, as the greatest monarch to rule England, that it was beneath her; literally, She signed at the top of the page.

Elizabeth I was the Virgin Queen with many Lovers. She never married due to her unwillingness to compromise her power. She knew better. She died at 69.



Anna Elenore Roosevelt was the longest serving First Lady in American history; twelve years, 1933-1945.

Elenore was a tireless advocate for Human and Civil rights. Her humanitarian efforts after WW II, gave many European refugees sanction in the United States and

the opportunity to start a new life. Elenore's popularity was worldwide. She was the most admired and powerful women of her time.

She traveled the world over and still found time to write twenty-seven books. Up until her death at 78, she was fighting for liberal causes in the Democratic Party.

These three women were complicated and far from perfect; maybe with the exception of Elenore Roosevelt. What they did have in common was their belief in what they were fighting for. They were resilient and unwavering. Their countries prospered because of them.

If women were handed the political reins today, I believe we'd have a better world.

Let me know your stories of powerful women you've known, or who you admire in history!

Aloha,

Veronica

Have You Seen These Children?: A Memoir

Four young children caught between love and hate—hostages to the cruelty of revenge. A deceitful American father and a naive decision by a Filipino mother transformed their lives forever.

Valorie, Veronica, Vance, and Vincent's perfect world turned into a nightmare one hot afternoon in 1959 in Cebu, Philippines. What was to be a quick lunch with their father turned into a flight to America, where four dreadfully long years of running from state to state, hiding, and vanishing into the night followed. Kidnapped from the only world they knew, confusion quickly set in. At nine, Valorie, the eldest, liked seeing their father after his absence for over a year. Vance, a timid six-year-old, went along with whatever Valorie did. Vincent, the baby at three, cried for his mother while clinging to Veronica for comfort. Veronica, eight, was the only one who was truly panicked by what was happening around them—and she recognized instantly that she and her siblings would have to stick together in order to survive. In that moment, her childhood ended and the warrior within her emerged.

Moving from state to state and school to school, avoiding the law, looking over their shoulders at every turn, the four Slaughter children found themselves fighting not only the heartbreak of separation from their loving mother but also poverty, discrimination, and abuse. Their only weapons were their deep love for one another and an unwavering determination to survive the trials they faced—and find their way back to their mother.



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