

YVETTE MANESSIS CORPORON

daughter

of

ruins

Book Club Kit

A deeply moving story that follows three women as they struggle to control their destinies, fighting to become the women they were meant to be.

Dear Readers,

I am so excited to share my youngest daughter with you! My kids roll their eyes each time I make that joke, but much like bringing my own children into the world, giving birth to *Daughter of Ruins*, was no easy task. I knew so clearly in my heart and mind the story I wanted to tell, yet there were many times along the journey that I questioned whether I was up to the challenge. But as any mother (or author) knows, the difficulties faded to distant memories as the story took shape and I grew to love with Demitra, Elena, and Maria.

I hope you will be moved by their struggles and resilience and fall in love with them as I have.

Kali orexi, as we say! I hope you'll enjoy *Daughter of Ruins*.

Yvette Corporan

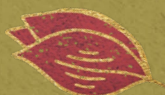




Praise & Reviews

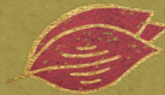
“Start this engrossing, mesmerizing and loving book and you won’t want to put it down. From the first page, I was transported into Yvette Manassis Corporon’s layered story of resilience and strength. She writes with heart and soul and offers unforgettable characters, rich in history and mythology. A page turner to the very end. *Daughter of Ruins* would make for an excellent screen adaptation—listen up Hollywood!”

—Adam Glassman, *Oprah Daily*



“A moving and transporting novel about the possibilities of friendship and fulfillment amidst deep loss. *Daughter of Ruins* explores the harm caused not just by forces of nature but by damaged souls. A testament to the magic and love that women constantly create in ordinary days and despite extraordinary circumstances.”

—Marjan Kamali, bestselling author of *The Lion Women of Tehran*



“The word is spellbinding! Yvette Manassis Corporon makes history feel intimate in this sweeping novel, which goes beyond the Greece you’ve seen in tourist photos and into the country’s tumultuous 20th century. Demetria, who has an artist’s spirit in a time and place that finds such things impractical, finds out what it means to forge her own path. You will be cheering her on.”

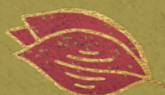
—Elena Nicolaou, *Today.com*



Praise & Reviews

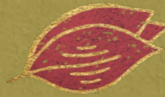
“*Daughter of Ruins* paints a vivid, heartfelt depiction of three very different women who fight to take control of their destinies after suffering devastations, injustices, and circumstances beyond their own dominion. Through beautiful writing and perfectly rendered nods to mythology, we journey to a conclusion that truly brings to life the strength of these enduring women.”

—Jenni L. Walsh, *USA TODAY* bestselling author of *Unsinkable*



“An epic, transportive saga complete with vibrant settings, rich mythology and storytelling, and unforgettable heroines—compelling, immerse, and deeply satisfying.”

—Lee Kelly, author of *The Starlets* and *The Antiquity Affair*



“A sumptuous feast of love and history, *Daughter of Ruins* is Corporon’s most robust and poetic offering to date. With lush language and arresting backdrops, the myth and magic of women bound by tenacity and threatened by circumstance and war, is as enriching as it is unforgettable.”

— Rachel McMillan, author of *The Mozart Code*

Of course, my Greek woman DNA means I'm totally food obsessed. I didn't want you to just read about how the Venetian spice trade and feudal society helped create the signature dish of our island; I wanted you to experience it. And so, I'm providing a recipe from my favorite culinary market on Corfu to make and enjoy during your book club meeting.

Traditional Corfiot Pastistada



Directions:

Heat your pan with a few tablespoons of the olive oil.
Brown the beef or chicken in small batches and set aside.
Heat the remaining oil and saute onions to translucent, add the garlic.
Deglaze your pan by adding the red wine.
When that simmers, add the tomatoes and water.
Sprinkle the spetseriko into the pan and mix well.
Add your beef or chicken back to the pan, cover and simmer for about 1 hour.
Salt and pepper to taste.
Cook the pasta according to its directions.
Remove the meat from your pot and add the cooked pasta.
Place the pasta on a platter and top with the braised meat.
Top with a cheese & parsley.

Ingredients:

2 pounds boneless beef cubes or
1 whole chicken cut into parts
1 package bucatini noodles
1/4 cup olive oil
1 large onion chopped
3 finely chopped garlic cloves
1 (16 oz) can crushed tomatoes
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup red wine
Salt and pepper to taste
(I prefer white pepper)
Grated Greek kefalograviera or
parmesan cheese to taste
Parsley for garnish

Spetseriko Spice Mix Ingredients:

1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp allspice
1/2 tsp hot red pepper
2 tsp sweet paprika
1/4 tsp cumin
1/4 tsp black pepper
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon sugar
2 bay leaves

In *Daughter of Ruins*, the myth of Amphitrite is especially significant. As I was writing these passages, I dreamed of finding an artist who could capture in illustration what I described in words. I was thrilled when I met @thebookishanimator_ and she agreed to bring Amphitrite to life in art. I'm even more thrilled to share our Amphitrite with you here today.





Discussion Questions:

These discussion questions can also be found on pages 393 and 394:

1. What does the title *Daughter of Ruins* mean to you? How does Demitra's life reflect this title? In what way are Elena and Maria also daughters of Ruins?
2. While their journeys are different, how are Demitra, Elena, and Maria's dreams and struggles to live authentic and meaningful lives, similar? How do cultural and generational factors stand in their way? In what ways do you think women still struggle for their voices to be heard in patriarchal societies today?
3. The snakes of Panagia play an important role in Cephalonia's history and culture. Only twice in modern history have the snakes failed to appear. What happened in these instances? Do you believe that the disappearance of Panagia's snakes was an omen?
4. The Myth of Amphitrite has special significance to Demitra and Aleko. How does the myth of Amphitrite and Poseidon reflect and foreshadow their relationship?
5. Even though women in the US were unable to secure mortgages alone until 1974 (!), Demitra is able to purchase her Fire Island home with the help of Tino, a recent immigrant. Meanwhile, April's family, who were descended from slaves and lived in the US for several generations, was denied a mortgage and prevented from buying a home in Levittown. Were you familiar with the disparity here, the red line laws and racist real estate provisions that prevented Black families from securing mortgages and accruing generational wealth?
6. While many in the U.S. are familiar with the history of the Japanese picture brides, history has mostly forgotten the thousands of Greek picture brides who came to the US in the early 1900s. What are your thoughts on this practice? In addition to the loneliness faced by Maria, what other difficulties did these young women face?



Discussion Questions:

7. Despite the poverty, lack of education and opportunities that the women had, Martha tells Demitra, “Men think they hold the power, but we are the power, Demitra. And we bring the magic and the love.” In what ways do Martha’s words ring true?
8. There is a resounding theme of mothers, and in Aleko’s case, fathers, sacrificing for their children’s happiness and futures. How and why do the parents of *Daughter of Ruins* sacrifice themselves for their children? In what way do you recall your parents sacrificing for you, and if you are a parent, when and how have you put the happiness and needs of your own children before your own?
9. The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, was formed in Atlanta in 1922 to help Greek Immigrants organize and assimilate in response to violent attacks by the KKK targeting Greeks and their businesses. Were you aware of the discrimination and racism faced by the Greek immigrants by the KKK and of the targeted attacks against them like the Omaha Greek Town Riot of 1909?
10. In Yvette’s author’s note, she shares how, like Demitra, she found purpose and, in many ways, salvation, through art. Yvette explains how writing helped her find fulfillment and a sense of self in the most difficult moments of working motherhood. What do you do for yourself to help boost your confidence and find fulfillment? Why is finding and carving out a sense of self very important?



Yvette Manassis Corporon is an internationally bestselling author and Emmy Award-winning producer. To date, her books have been translated into sixteen languages. A first generation Greek-American with deep family roots on Corfu, Yvette studied classical civilization and journalism at New York University. She lives in Brooklyn with her family where she spends her spare time reading, running, and trying to get into yoga.

Visit Yvette online at

yvettecorporon.com

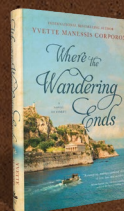
 [@yvettecorporon](https://www.instagram.com/yvettecorporon)

 [@YvetteNY](https://twitter.com/YvetteNY)

 [@YvetteManassisCorporonAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/YvetteManassisCorporonAuthor)

Also Available:

*Where the
Wandering Ends*



HARPER MUSE

*Illuminating minds
and captivating hearts
through story.*

www.harpermuse.com

     [@harpermusebooks](https://www.instagram.com/harpermusebooks)