

Dates	Events in Clodia's Story
Around 100 B.C.	At Appius's house (CLODIA's FATHER), the atrium wall of the entry room, with a painting of CLODIA's FAMILY TREE
95 B.C.	CLODIA (CLAUDIA) is born; her name and image are added to the tree.
91 B.C.	Reading and writing are still far off for young Clodia as CIVIL WAR erupts between Romans and Italians over voting rights.
87 B.C.	As the war between Rome and its neighbors concludes, and the Italians are welcomed as citizens, the HOUSEHOLD of APPIUS grows; CLODIA'S education begins.
➔ November 1, 82 B.C.	Angered by the inclusion of the Italians in the Roman Republic and about his own narrowing political prospects, a disgruntled politician, SULLA, 56, attacks the city of Rome, the first time the Republic has been besieged by own of its own citizens.
79 B.C.	CLODIA'S FATHER, 50, decides to collaborate with SULLA and is elected head-of-state, leaving CLODIA, 16, and her siblings to wonder how far their family has drifted from its roots.
Around 78 B.C.	After SULLA'S DEATH, as Romans pick up the pieces of their lives from his dictatorship, CLODIA'S FATHER arranges CLODIA'S wedding to a 23-year-old aristocrat, six years her elder, METELLUS, from a established and ambitious family.
76 B.C.	At the newlyweds' home, on Palatine Hill, CLODIA, 19, continues her education, benefiting from her family's connections and her father's political opportunities, expanding her knowledge of the world beyond Italy.
	CLODIA receives news of her DAD'S death, leading to moment of reflection on his legacy and her family's future.
➔ 73–71 B.C.	After CLODIA'S FAMILY receives an unnerving report about their financial security from southern Italy, CLODIA changes the spelling of her aristocratic name, to ally herself with populist politics—and diverging from her father's views, begins to chart her own course.
66 B.C.	CLODIA'S HUSBAND, METELLUS, 35, departs Rome to serve as a lieutenant in Rome's wars in Syria and Jerusalem.
	CLODIA runs the family's household, raises her daughter, and forged connections with HER SISTERS and with other politicians' wives, who do the same.
Late 63, early 62 B.C.	With a host of domestic problems unresolved, like rising debt, food prices, the expansion of voting rights for freed slaves remaining unresolved, a home-grown INSURRECTION ERUPTS after a bitterly contested election between a populist politician and the old guard.
62 B.C.	CLODIA, 34; her husband, 40; and their daughter steel their household for a grueling campaign for Metellus's election to Rome's highest office.
61 B.C.	CLODIA'S half of the family—her younger radical BROTHER, CLODIUS, specifically—come under intense political scrutiny.
	CLODIA and her husband spends the year devising a strategy to win the election around the Roman Republic's arcane voting rules.
60 B.C.	Victorious at the ballot urn, CLODIA'S HUSBAND is sworn in.
Spring to Summer 59 B.C.	After his one year-term, METELLUS, 42, falls ill with an unspecified malady.

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Summer 59 B.C.	METELLUS dies, intestate.
→ 59 B.C.	Since there is no will, CLODIA, 36, widowed with one daughter, is given charge of her own finances and retains her own portfolio of properties, including the house on Palatine Hill, without needing any legal guardian. She is free to act as she wishes.
	While CLODIA shows no interest in remarrying—yet—she makes the decision to assist her YOUNGER BROTHER CLODIUS, 33, on the launch of his campaign as populist reformer.
December 10, 59 B.C.	CLODIUS, 33 wins election for People's Tribune
January 4, 58, B.C.	In his first week in office, CLODIUS brings his four laws forward for assembly votes.
February 58, B.C.	CLODIUS'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS pass.
May 58 B.C.	CICERO is sent into exile for having killed the 63 B.C. insurrectionists without a trial.
57 B.C.	A young, ambitious 25-year-old, MARCUS CAELIUS RUFUS, from provincial Italy moves to Rome and needs an apartment. He rents on Palatine Hill. CLODIA is 38.
April 57 B.C.	CLODIA, 38, and RUFUS, 25, begin their courtship and visit The Crater, as the Romans affectionately refer to the beach towns, islands, and springs around the Bay of Naples
Autumn 57 B.C.	As his cronies in the Roman Senate debate whether their colleague CICERO should be recalled from exile, CLODIA and RUFUS pursue their romance, popping in and out of high-society villas and parties.
	RUFUS asks to borrow money from CLODIA “to pay for public games”; CLODIA obliges.
August 57 B.C.	After the men of the Senate approves Cicero's recall, CLODIA and CLODIUS brace for the statesman's return.
September 57 B.C.	CICERO is officially recalled from exile and allowed to return to his family in Rome.
Late Autumn 57 B.C.	CLODIA and CLODIUS both come under public assault from CICERO, who sets his sights on them as revenge for his exile.
Early Winter 57 B.C.	CLODIA and RUFUS'S relationship sours.
Winter 57 B.C.	After the corpse of an unidentified slave is seen removed from RUFUS'S apartment, CLODIA'S SLAVES inform their mistress that her life might be in danger by poisoning.
	CLODIA discovers that RUFUS intends to poison her to avoid repaying his loan—which prosecutors will later allege he used to participate in the Egyptian ambassador's assassination.
Late Winter 57- Early 56 B.C.	RUFUS is arrested and charged, among other counts, with the EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT'S MURDER.  CLODIA, 39, frees her family's slaves for having saved her life her and agrees to testify against RUFUS.
→ April 3-4, 56 B.C.	The trial opens to a frenzied atmosphere, on the first day of Rome's Spring festival.