

PERPETUA  
ET  
FELICITAS

A LATIN NOVELLA

BRIAN GRONWOLLER

ILLUSTRATED  
BY

MILES CLEVELAND



# STORYBASE

• BOOKS •

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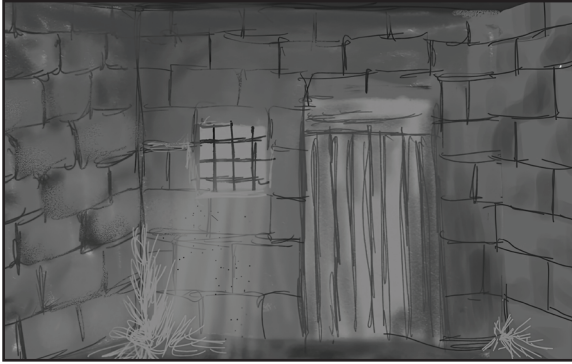
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# PROLOGUS

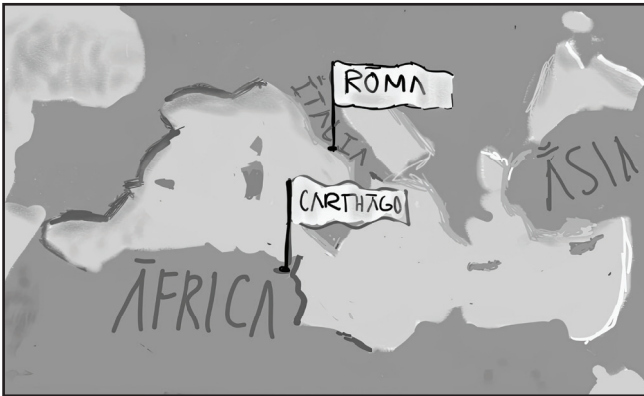
*carcer tenebrōsus*

**annō Dominī CCIII<sup>1</sup> erat carcer.<sup>2</sup>**



carcer erat Carthāginī.

ecce Carthāgō!



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<sup>1</sup> annō Dominī CCIII: *in the year of the Lord 203 (i.e., in AD 203)*

<sup>2</sup> carcer: *prison*

PERPETUA ET FĒLICITĀS

Carthāgō erat magna **urbs**<sup>3</sup> Rōmāna. sed Carthāgō nōn erat in Italiā. Carthāgō erat in Āfricā.

carcer, quī erat Carthāginī, **tenebrōsus**<sup>4</sup> erat.

fēmina erat in carcere tenebrōsō. fēmina erat Rōmāna. fēmina Rōmāna erat **vīgintī duo annōrum**.<sup>5</sup> nōmen fēminae Rōmānae erat Perpetua.

ecce  
Perpetua!



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<sup>3</sup> urbs: *city*

<sup>4</sup> tenebrōsus: *dark*

<sup>5</sup> vīgintī duo annōrum: *of twenty-two years (i.e., twenty-two years old)*

**hinc ōrdinem nārrāvit  
sīcut manū suā scrīptum.<sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>6</sup> hinc ōrdinem nārrāvit sīcut manū suā scrīptum: *from here she (Perpetua) narrated the order (of events) as written by her own hand.*

The document on which this reimagined novella is based, *Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis* (*The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*), hereafter *Passio*, similarly begins with some remarks from an anonymous editor and then transitions to Perpetua's prison journal. The journal is one of the few surviving narratives from the ancient world that was written by a woman. The lines on this page have been simplified from *Passio* II.3: *haec ordinem totum martyrii sui iam hinc ipsa narravit, sicut conscriptum manu sua et suo sensu reliquit*. All quotations of the *Passio* in these footnotes follow Robinson's edition which is in the public domain: J. Armitage Robinson, *The Passion of S. Perpetua: Newly Edited from the Mss. with an Introduction and Notes* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1891).