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FOUR WORDS WOULD CHANGE HER LIFE... Precious Rafferty is an American antiques dealer living in Paris. Though Precious--known as Preshy--lives in the world's most romantic city, she keeps her feet firmly on the ground. No man will ever sweep her off her feet. Until she meets Bennett James. He's perfect in every way. Is he too good to be true? Granted, she doesn't know much about his business or personal life in Shanghai, but isn't it time to stop being so jaded about romance? And then her long-lost cousin Lily Song sends her an urgent message about Preshy's new love. "Meet me in Venice" are Lily's cryptic words. ONE MAN MIGHT POSSIBLY END IT... Lily lives in Shanghai and knows the antiques underworld there--and she has a secret important enough to draw her to Venice to meet Preshy for the first time, face-to-face. Ruggedly handsome, world-weary writer Sam Knight senses there's a story afoot. Precious senses he's getting

closer and closer to her and enmeshed in this tangled web of danger and desire. But is Sam also not all he seems to be? Does he have a terrible secret he's keeping from Preshy? In Venice, Precious will have to weave through a maze of betrayers and seducers to discover who she can trust with her heart...and with her life. Page-turning, lushly descriptive, and intelligent, *Meet Me in Venice* is a cat-and-mouse game with plenty of twists and wonderful characters you'll never forget. It is Elizabeth Adler at her storytelling best. You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when visiting the island city of Venice. Following the self-guided tours in this book, you'll explore Venice's most important landmarks and cruise the Grand Canal for a close-up look at the elegant palaces, bridges, and churches. You'll discover picturesque lanes, enjoy the best city views, and tour outlying islands in the lagoon. Dine at a romantic canal-side restaurant, or join the locals at a characteristic cicchetti bar and munch seafood-on-a-toothpick. As the stars shine over St. Mark's Square, sway to the free music of café orchestras. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. You'll learn how to explore Venice hassle-free and get up-to-date advice on what's worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket. *The Merchant of Venice* is considered one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies. So why aren't you laughing! Shakespeare is a funny guy--when you can understand him; the problem is his plays were written hundreds of years ago and if you don't understand the context, the plays can be really confusing. If you are struggling to get through *The Merchant of Venice* or if you just want a bit more help, then this book is for you! Inside you will find summaries of each scene, overview of themes and characters, and even a modern version of the play (right next to the original text, so you can read it together)! If The

Merchant of Venice sounds like a fascinating read...you just wish it were written today (and not hundreds of years ago), then read on! A spellbinding new portrait of one of the world's most beloved cities, from the author of Istanbul La Serenissima. Its breathtaking architecture, art, and opera ensure that Venice remains a perennially popular destination for tourists and armchair travelers alike. Yet most of the available books about this magical city are either facile travel guides or fusty academic tomes. In Venice, renowned historian Thomas F. Madden draws on new research to explore the city's many astonishing achievements and to set 1,500 years of Venetian history and the endless Venetian-led Crusades in the context of the ever-shifting Eurasian world. Filled with compelling insights and famous figures, Venice is a monumental work of popular history that's as opulent and entertaining as the great city itself. In each Geronimo Stilton book, another funny, cheesy adventure is always right around the corner. Each book is fast-paced, with lively full-color art and a unique format kids 7-10 will love. When my friend Petunia Pretty Paws gave me a crystal figurine of a boat as a gift, I had to accept it. After all, I have the biggest crush on Petunia! But oh, was that crystal boat ugly! So I wasn't too sad when my cousin Trap accidentally broke it, especially when I discovered a piece of paper inside with a mysterious message from someone in Venice, Italy, asking for help! A gentlemouse never ignores a request for assistance. So I, Geronimo Stilton, would do whatever it took to save the day!

ABOUT THE BOOK MY VENICE "An intimate look at the Myth, History and the magic of its Arts" "...I liked the way the city had attracted my attention. But, in order to discover it, I asked it to stop hiding behind its masks. I wanted it real. To allow me to discover its secrets, understand its problems and hold a direct conversation with it. And it was promised to me, and all disguises were thrown off as our conversation began..." A trip

through time, myth, History, the magic of Art and life is what Barbara Athanassiadis manages to achieve with the discerning eye of an experienced traveller. It is the same eye that captured reflections of Italy in her earlier narratives, the books *A Year in Tuscany* and *Feeling Rome*. *My Venice* is the final book left to complete her unique literary trilogy that approaches time, place and people, both in the past and in the present. Without directing our steps, the author transports us through the canals, the narrow streets and the squares of Venice, and she focuses our attention on works of Nature and Art, drawing on legends and historical omissions. The "Winged Lion" leisurely embraces the shoulders of our romantic heroine, and the "Seagull's Flight" even reaches the "Empress Sissy in Venice". The "Tiny Murano Spheres" roll down and stop before "The Fork of the Byzantine Princess", "Torcello" flirts with the "Venetian Women in the Harem"... The eBook is illustrated with colourful photos. Watch the YouTube book trailer video *My VENICE*: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrbC-aj-0WKv8tN0RuB2YvMtqV_Ig7N9X

BOOK REVIEWS

"Barbara must have been very much in love with Venice, because I know that for many years she has desired to write this book. She visited the city many times in the fall and stayed for long periods in order to internalize all that she describes expertly afterwards, providing the reader with her interesting reflections on the streets, the innumerable bridges and the countless churches, but also a wonderful lesson in History and an eye-catching look at its mysterious and sensual Art. We all know what Venice is for "art lovers". Reading her book, it is obvious that she had an exclusive dialogue with the Serenissima, in order for its magic to penetrate inside her and then to be able to narrate her intimate relationship within this dreamy city. I particularly liked the point when she asked Venice not to hide behind its masks, but to throw aside its touristic veils and be revealed to

her without any secrets." Lydia Mastronikolis, President of the Friends of the Cultural Association "Hellenic World" "Attentive to the Venetian glances of Barbara Athanassiadis' book, I realized an emotional escalation, as the author is quite literal with her title: MY VENICE. This is indeed her own Venice, with the meaning not so much of her subjective glance or the focus on what selectively charms her, but in the particular way she sees things, looking towards the view of many sights, and not really seeing them. She wanders amongst her favorite places and drags my gaze to colors and sensations without guiding it. Just as charmingly, she approximates aspects of everyday life in her extra-literary life, calmly, with a nonchalance and always with a smile. Just as spontaneously, and naturally, she unfolds the myth in which she dresses her wanderings. Motives, thoughts, quests, reactions of her heroes, occur nearly as obviously... By reading her book, we follow the confessional narration of a friend, where the intimacy of her voice is entrusted to our ears." Helen Kritika, Book Critic

"Through the narration of Barbara Athanassiadis, I discovered in fact that Venice is inside her, hence the title: MY VENICE. While our friendship has bonded us for years, I was truly touched by her book. It's as if she has taken me by the hand and together we stroll this fairytale town; either when the fog envelops it, or when the pink color of its sunset embraces it. Barbara's spontaneous and mature descriptions have spurred my curiosity to such an extent that I feel a strong desire to actually go to Venice and see the places that have inspired her. I consider myself lucky when I fall upon such a book. The narrative makes me travel and look at places I have heard about countless times in a fresh and novel way ... all while I sit comfortably in my armchair." Zoe Kyriakou, Radio Producer, "Easy 97,2". Athens, Greece

Often hailed as one of the best travel books ever written, Venice is neither a guide nor a history book, but a beautifully written immersion in Venetian

life and character, set against the background of the city's past. Analysing the particular temperament of Venetians, as well as its waterways, its architecture, its bridges, its tourists, its curiosities, its smells, sounds, lights and colours, there is scarcely a corner of Venice that Jan Morris has not investigated and brought vividly to life. Jan Morris first visited the city of Venice as young James Morris, during World War II. As she writes in the introduction, 'it is Venice seen through a particular pair of eyes at a particular moment - young eyes at that, responsive above all to the stimuli of youth.' Venice is an impassioned work on this magnificent but often maddening city. Jan Morris's collection of travel writing and reportage spans over five decades and includes such titles as Sydney, Coronation Everest, Hong Kong, Spain and Manhattan '45. Since its first publication, Venice has appeared in many editions, won the W.H. Heinemann award and become an international bestseller. 'The best book about Venice ever written' Sunday Times 'No sensible visitor should visit the place without it . . . Venice stands alone as the essential introduction, and as a work of literature in its own right.' Observer 'Wonderfully romantic' Sandy Barker Escape to the breath-taking beauty of Venice - The City of Love. When pragmatic, sensible and resolutely single Deirdre York (Didi to her friends) is sent to Venice for work she is determined not to be taken in by the romantic clichés. Winter in the floating city may be breathtakingly beautiful, but she's here with a clear purpose and will not let the magic of Venice distract her. Piero Zanetti is the epitome of the handsome yet tortured artist. Heart-broken by the end of his love affair with a glamorous opera singer, he has lost his ability to work, and his inspiration has drained away, along with his zest for life. But Didi needs Piero working - she has been tasked with commissioning him to do a glass centrepiece for a luxury department store Christmas display - some how Didi has to cheer Piero up or at

least find him a new muse... As Didi and Piero slowly become friends, and as Venice starts to melt Didi's heart and gently nudge Piero out of the blues, something special begins to happen. Can Venice - the City of Love - work a Christmas miracle and help Didi and Piero to find their happiness at last... Leonie Mack is back with the most gloriously romantic escape, perfect for all fans of Mandy Baggot, Jo Thomas and Carole Matthews. What readers are saying about Leonie Mack: 'I read a lot of romance books and I have to say this book is one of the best in terms of chemistry. Readers - we're talking red hot!' 'A hot and sizzling read!' 'An uplifting, intelligent novel with a lot of substance and of course, plenty of romance' 'I can't stop thinking about this book!' 'Beautifully written, this is a great take on the opposites attract theme.' 'A delight to read with lots of fun, romance and funny bits along the way.' "This book opens a door long closed on an important era in the history of Venice. It presents, for the first time, an introductory, contextual study of three centuries of musical activity at the four major eleemosynary foundations of the former Republic of Venice: the ospedali grandi. It provides a comprehensive account of the institutional, social, religious, and civic dimensions of these welfare complexes, with particular reference to their musical subsidiaries, or cori." Jane Berdes proves the significance of the cori as reflectors of a range of cross-disciplinary scholarship from the history of art and architecture to the history of culture and social policy, as well as medical care and aspects of women's, children's, and Venetian studies.--BOOK JACKET. In 1592, Donata is a noble girl living in a palazzo on the Grand Canal. Girls of her class receive no education and rarely leave the palazzo. In a noble family, only one daughter and one son will be allowed to marry; Donata, like all younger daughters, will be sent to a convent. Donata longs to be tutored like her brothers and to see the Venice she has glimpsed only on the map. What is the

world beyond her balcony, beyond what she sees when she glides, veiled, in a gondola down the canal? She dresses as a boy and escapes the palazzo on the Grand Canal to see the world before she is shut away, and to try to find a way to escape her fate. Donata risks everything; she changes her life, and her family's life, forever when she walks through the door and encounters a Venice she never knew existed. **FOUR WORDS WOULD CHANGE HER LIFE...**Precious Rafferty is an American antiques dealer living in Paris. Though Precious--known as Preshy--lives in the world's most romantic city, she keeps her feet firmly on the ground. No man will ever sweep her off her feet. Until she meets Bennett James. He's perfect in every way. Is he too good to be true? Granted, she doesn't know much about his business or personal life in Shanghai, but isn't it time to stop being so jaded about romance? And then her long-lost cousin Lily Song sends her an urgent message about Preshy's new love. "Meet me in Venice" are Lily's cryptic words. **ONE MAN MIGHT POSSIBLY END IT...**Lily lives in Shanghai and knows the antiques underworld there--and she has a secret important enough to draw her to Venice to meet Preshy for the first time, face-to-face. Ruggedly handsome, world-weary writer Sam Knight senses there's a story afoot. Precious senses he's getting closer and closer to her and enmeshed in this tangled web of danger and desire. But is Sam also not all he seems to be? Does he have a terrible secret he's keeping from Preshy? In Venice, Precious will have to weave through a maze of betrayers and seducers to discover who she can trust with her heart...and with her life. Page-turning, lushly descriptive, and intelligent, Meet Me in Venice is a cat-and-mouse game with plenty of twists and wonderful characters you'll never forget. It is Elizabeth Adler at her storytelling best. "As the sixteenth century opened, members of the patriciate were increasingly withdrawing from trade, desiring to be seen as "gentlemen in

fact" as well as "gentlemen in name." The author considers why this was so and explores such wide-ranging themes as attitudes toward wealth and display, the articulation of family identity, the interplay between the public and the private, and the emergence of characteristically Venetian decorative practices and styles of art and architecture. Brown focuses new light on the visual culture of Venetian women - how they lived within, furnished, and decorated their homes; what spaces were allotted to them; what their roles and domestic tasks were; how they dressed; how they raised their children; and how they entertained. Bringing together both high arts and low, the book examines all aspects of Renaissance material culture."--BOOK JACKET. The historical adult debut novel by # 1 New York Times bestselling author Lauren Kate, *The Orphan's Song* is a sweeping love story about family and music--and the secrets each hold--that follows the intertwined fates of two Venetian orphans. "A tangled knot of betrayal and love, lies and redemption. Marvelous." --Fiona Davis, author of *The Address* A song brought them together. A secret will tear them apart. Venice, 1736. When fate brings Violetta and Mino together on the roof of the Hospital of the Incurables, they form a connection that will change their lives forever. Both are orphans at the Incurables, dreaming of escape. But when the resident Maestro notices Violetta's voice, she is selected for the Incurables' world famous coro, and must sign an oath never to sing beyond its church doors. After a declaration of love ends in heartbreak, Mino flees the Incurables in search of his family. Known as the "city of masks," Venice is full of secrets, and Mino is certain one will lead to his long-lost mother. Without him, the walls close in on Violetta and she begins a dangerous and forbidden nightlife, hoping her voice can secure her freedom. But neither finds what they are looking for, until a haunting memory Violetta has suppressed since childhood leads them to a shocking confrontation.

Vibrant with the glamour and beauty of Venice at its zenith, *The Orphan's Song* takes us on a breathtaking journey of passion, heartbreak, and betrayal before it crescendos to an unforgettable ending, a celebration of the enduring nature and transformative power of love. In her latest adventure, Olivia, everyone's favourite little pig, is off the Venice, the place of fine art, carnival and gondolas for a family holiday to remember. With her very own discerning eye for style, Olivia takes the beautiful city of Venice by storm. From dodging pigeons in the Piazza San Marco, to eating an abundance of the most delicious Italian gelato at Carneval, and barely staying afloat in a gondola, Olivia uncovers the wonderful delights of Venice with that very special 'Olivia' style and flair! “The rise and fall of Venice’s empire is an irresistible story and [Roger] Crowley, with his rousing descriptive gifts and scholarly attention to detail, is its perfect chronicler.”—The Financial Times

The New York Times bestselling author of *Empires of the Sea* charts Venice’s astounding five-hundred-year voyage to the pinnacle of power in an epic story that stands unrivaled for drama, intrigue, and sheer opulent majesty. *City of Fortune* traces the full arc of the Venetian imperial saga, from the ill-fated Fourth Crusade, which culminates in the sacking of Constantinople in 1204, to the Ottoman-Venetian War of 1499–1503, which sees the Ottoman Turks supplant the Venetians as the preeminent naval power in the Mediterranean. In between are three centuries of Venetian maritime dominance, during which a tiny city of “lagoon dwellers” grow into the richest place on earth. Drawing on firsthand accounts of pitched sea battles, skillful negotiations, and diplomatic maneuvers, Crowley paints a vivid picture of this avaricious, enterprising people and the bountiful lands that came under their dominion. From the opening of the spice routes to the clash between Christianity and Islam, Venice played a leading role in the

defining conflicts of its time—the reverberations of which are still being felt today. “[Crowley] writes with a racy briskness that lifts sea battles and sieges off the page.”—The New York Times “Crowley chronicles the peak of Venice’s past glory with Wordsworthian sympathy, supplemented by impressive learning and infectious enthusiasm.”—The Wall Street Journal

As the citizens of Venice compete for advantageous marriages, wealth, and status, a moneylender is intent on deadly revenge. Mistrust and resentment thrive in Shakespeare’s dark comedy. Under the editorial supervision of Jonathan Bate and Eric Rasmussen, two of today’s most accomplished Shakespearean scholars, this Modern Library series incorporates definitive texts and authoritative notes from William Shakespeare: Complete Works. Each play includes an Introduction as well as an overview of Shakespeare’s theatrical career; commentary on past and current productions based on interviews with leading directors, actors, and designers; scene-by-scene analysis; key facts about the work; a chronology of Shakespeare’s life and times; and black-and-white illustrations. Ideal for students, theater professionals, and general readers, these modern and accessible editions from the Royal Shakespeare Company set a new standard in Shakespearean literature for the twenty-first century.

‘There were some weeks that were painful, nerve-racking. At the office or at home, in the middle of a meal, he would suddenly find his forehead bathed in sweat, a tightness in his chest, and at those times, feeling everyone’s eyes on him was unbearable.’ When an unusually inquisitive stranger strikes up conversation with Justin Calmar on the train home from a family holiday, his sun-drenched memories are overshadowed by an event that will change his life forever. As he travels alone through northern Italy and Switzerland, his carefully constructed life as an upright citizen begins to unravel, revealing secret motivations and hidden

impulses that threaten to overwhelm him. Originally published in 1965, shortly after Simenon moved into the spacious new home he had built in palings, Switzerland, this chilling novel is a powerful exploration of the fragility of the human psyche. The #1 New York Times–bestselling author of *The Group* takes readers on a captivating journey to one of the world’s most celebrated cities. Mary McCarthy brings her novelist’s unerring eye to a book that blends art, politics, religion, music, and history to create a living portrait of “the world’s loveliest city.” Like a painter capturing the city’s essence on canvas, McCarthy uses words to create stunning visuals that bring both the old and new Venice to enchanting life. From her apartment overlooking the garden of a palazzo, McCarthy takes us into the museums and monasteries of this city of canals and gondolas, Machiavelli and Tintoretto. And she reveals some little-known facts: Venetians love pets, but prefer cats to dogs; during World War II, the Allies captured the city with a fleet of gondolas; and without Napoleon, Venice wouldn’t be what it is today. From the ancient roots of *The Merchant of Venice*’s pound of flesh to the quotidian details of daily life, it’s all here—the magnificent frescoes, the sublime music of Mozart, the virgins, and the saints. At once a comprehensive travelogue and a powerful piece of reportage, *Venice Observed* is a testimony of McCarthy’s love affair with the City of Canals. This ebook features superb color reproductions of the works of Giorgione, Veronese, Titian, Canaletto, Guardo, Bellini, and Tiepolo, and an illustrated biography of Mary McCarthy including rare images from the author’s estate. When Ye Pei dreamed of Venice as a girl, she imagined a magical floating city of canals and gondola rides. And she imagined her mother, successful in her new life and eager to embrace the daughter she had never forgotten. But when Ye Pei arrives in Italy, she learns her mother works on a farm far from the city. Her only connection, a mean-spirited

Chinese auntie, puts Ye Pei to work in a small-town café. Rather than giving up and returning to China, a determined Ye Pei takes on a grueling schedule, resolving to save enough money to provide her family with a better future. A groundbreaking work of journalism, *Meet Me in Venice* provides a personal, intimate account of Chinese individuals in the very act of migration. Suzanne Ma spent years in China and Europe to understand why Chinese people choose to immigrate to nations where they endure hardship, suspicion, manual labor and separation from their loved ones. Today all eyes are on China and its explosive economic growth. With the rise of the Chinese middle class, Chinese communities around the world are growing in size and prosperity, a development many westerners find unsettling and even threatening. Following Ye Pei's undaunted path, this inspiring book is an engrossing read for those eager to understand contemporary China and the enormous impact of Chinese emigrants around the world. Set in Paris, Shanghai and Venice, this novel revolves around the fate of a valuable family heirloom - a gem-encrusted necklace - and the people who wish to profit from it at any cost. Two systems of timekeeping were in concurrent use in Venice between 1582 and 1797. Government documents conformed to the Venetian year (beginning 1 March), church documents to the papal year (from 1 January). Song and Season defines the many ways in which time was discussed, resolving a long-standing fuzziness imposed on studies of personnel, institutions, and cultural dynamics by dating conflicts. It is in this context that the standardization of timekeeping coincided with the collapse of the *dramma per musica* and the rise of scripted comedy and the *opera buffa*. Selfridge-Field discloses fascinating relationships between the musical stage and the cultures it served, such as the residues of medieval liturgical feasts embedded in the theatrical year. Such associations were

transmuted into lingering seasonal associations with specific dramatic genres. Interactions between culture and chronology thus operated on both general and specific levels. Both are fundamental to understanding theatrical dynamics of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. A year after her husband Leo's death, widow Daisy invites her three adult children to join her for a holiday in beautiful Venice. It will be wonderful, her chicks under one roof again in their father's birthplace. But is it possible to recapture the past? Marc's marriage is in jeopardy, but for his mother's sake, he convinces his wife to keep up appearances. Anna's trying to hide the truth about the dismal state of her London acting career; and Ellie, enjoying a gap year and uncertain about her future choices, wants to avoid family pressure to conform. Despite the magic of Venice, family ties are tested to the limit, especially when a shocking secret from Leo's past is revealed. Now everything they value about love, family, commitment and trust must be re-examined. How can one family holiday require so much courage? Will Daisy's sentimental journey make or break them? From multi-award-winning author Barbara Hannay comes a moving and heartfelt family drama about difficult choices and finding happiness in the most unexpected places. An armchair traveler's companion to Donna Leon's Brunetti mysteries: "a splendid present for mystery-fiction fans [or] travel-lit buffs" (Tom Nolan, *The Wall Street Journal*). Follow Commissario Guido Brunetti, star of Donna Leon's international bestselling mystery series, on over a dozen walks that highlight Venice's churches, markets, bars, cafes, and palazzos. In Brunetti's Venice, tourists and armchair travelers follow in the footsteps of Brunetti as he traverses the city he knows and loves. With his acute eye, fascination with history, ear for language, passion for food, and familiarity with the dark realities of crime and corruption, Brunetti is the perfect companion for any walk across La Serenissima. Over a

dozen walks, encompassing all six regions of Venice as well as the lagoon, lead readers down calli, over canali, and through campi. Important locations from the best-selling novels are highlighted and major themes and characters are explored, all accompanied by poignant excerpts from the novels. This is a must-have companion book for any lover of Donna Leon's wonderful mysteries. An American chef meets the love of her life among the beautiful canals and exquisite cuisine of Venice—"better than a romance novel, it's the real thing" (New Orleans Times-Picayune). Fernando first sees Marlena across the Piazza San Marco and falls in love from afar. When he sees her again in a Venice café a year later, he knows it's fate. He knows little English; she, a divorced American chef traveling through Italy, speaks only food-based Italian. Marlena thought she was done with romantic love, incapable of intimacy. Yet within months of their first meeting, she quits her job, sells her house in St. Louis, kisses her two grown sons goodbye, and moves to Venice to marry "the stranger," as she calls Fernando. This deliciously satisfying memoir is filled with the foods and flavors of Italy and peppered with culinary observations and recipes. But the main course here is an enchanting true story about a woman who falls in love with both a man and a city, and finally finds the home she didn't even know she was missing. "An irresistible grown-up love story." —USA Today

Cenzo is a world-weary fisherman, determined to sit out the rest of the war. He's happy to stay out of the way of the SS, quietly going about his business of fishing in the lagoons of northern Italy. Then one night, instead of pulling in his usual haul, Cenzo fishes a young woman out of the canal. Guilia is an Italian Jew who has managed to escape capture and is determined to find her family. This meeting results in them both taking an entirely unexpected journey, and Cenzo suddenly finds himself thrown headlong into the world of international wartime politics,

where everyone has their own agenda and nowhere is safe ... Excerpt from *The Stones of Venice*, Vol. 1 A Good many years ago now, wandering about Italy, I found myself, almost by accident, in Venice. My intention was to stay a week only, but it happened that during that time I somehow found out my way to a public library, which was situated in an old palace on one of the back canals near S. Maria Formosa, and here, among the few English books, I discovered, and for the first time made acquaintance with, Ruskin's "*Stones of Venice*." The book engrossed me immediately. Every night until the closing of the library I sat up filling notebooks with definitions and descriptions, or with diagrams of arches and capitals, and all day I rowed from church to church and palace to palace, comparing, examining, and from time to time adding certain profound reflections of my own to the ideas with which Ruskin had supplied me. The immediate result of all this was that from a week my stay lengthened to three months, but the more important one was that, in this way, through the instrumentality of this book, there was unlocked for me a source of interest which grew into one of the most engrossing occupations and studies of my life, an incentive to many journeys and a chief clue and help to the understanding of history. And although by and by many of Ruskin's judgements came to me to seem untenable, and I let them go, yet this in no way affected or lessened the interest which he had revealed in the subject, and which continued steadily to grow and increase. My reason for recalling this personal incident here is that it seems to me a good illustration of Ruskin's general influence. Most people have felt the attraction of that peculiar and vital fascination with which he invested the study of art, and most people, too, have learnt ultimately to question pretty freely his decisions and judgements, and to doubt whether his enthusiastic and emotional manner of adopting theories that were pleasing to him was calculated to

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Winner of the 2005 Otto Grundler Award, the International Congress on Medieval Studies Between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries, Venice transformed itself from a struggling merchant commune to a powerful maritime empire that would shape events in the Mediterranean for the next four hundred years. In this magisterial new book on medieval Venice, Thomas F. Madden traces the city-state's extraordinary rise through the life of Enrico Dandolo (c. 1107–1205), who ruled Venice as doge from 1192 until his death. The scion of a prosperous merchant family deeply involved in politics, religion, and diplomacy, Dandolo led Venice's forces during the disastrous Fourth Crusade (1201–1204), which set out to conquer Islamic Egypt but instead destroyed Christian Byzantium. Yet despite his influence on the course of Venetian history, we know little about Dandolo, and much of what is known has been distorted by myth. The first full-length study devoted to Dandolo's life and times, *Enrico Dandolo and the Rise of Venice* corrects the many misconceptions about him that have accumulated over the centuries, offering an accurate and incisive assessment of Dandolo's motives, abilities, and achievements as doge, as well as his role—and Venice's—in the Fourth Crusade. Madden also examines the

means and methods by which the Dandolo family rose to prominence during the preceding century, thus illuminating medieval Venice's singular political, social, and religious environment. Culminating with the crisis precipitated by the failure of the Fourth Crusade, Madden's groundbreaking work reveals the extent to which Dandolo and his successors became torn between the anxieties and apprehensions of Venice's citizens and its escalating obligations as a Mediterranean power. The identity of Venice, Queen of the Adriatic, is inseparable from the waters of the lagoon by which she is surrounded. Isabella Panfido takes us on an exploration of those waters that since time immemorial have been Venice's refuge and defence, visiting some of its many islands (the names of a few - Fisolo, Sant'Arian, Lio Piccolo, San Secondo - will be unknown even to the most assiduous visitors to the city), and introducing us to their elusive magic and their well-kept secrets. We learn of haunting illusions created by the peculiar geography of the lagoon under certain climatic conditions; of the devastating plague of 1630 that led to the loss of 47,000 Venetian lives over a period of sixteen months; of the destruction by a bitter north wind of baskets full of carefully harvested soft-shelled crabs and their seemingly miraculous rebirth and metamorphosis from one delicacy into another; of thwarted yearnings and ambitions, of jealous rivalries and revenge, of the terrible price of vanity - and much, much more. An expert guide and consummate storyteller, the author draws on a deep and extensive knowledge of her native city past and present, and on her own personal experiences, weaving together myth and legend, imagination and historical fact, to capture the mystique of the phenomenon that is Venice. Venice Noir is the winner of two literary prizes: the Latisana per il Nord-Est Prize and the Gambrinus Giuseppe Mazzotti Prize. A #1 New York Times Bestseller! "Funny, insightful, illuminating . . ." —The Boston

Globe Twelve years ago, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* exploded into a monumental success, residing a record-breaking four years on the New York Times bestseller list (longer than any work of fiction or nonfiction had before) and turning John Berendt into a household name. *The City of Falling Angels* is Berendt's first book since *Midnight*, and it immediately reminds one what all the fuss was about. Turning to the magic, mystery, and decadence of Venice, Berendt gradually reveals the truth behind a sensational fire that in 1996 destroyed the historic Fenice opera house. Encountering a rich cast of characters, Berendt tells a tale full of atmosphere and surprise as the stories build, one after the other, ultimately coming together to portray a world as finely drawn as a still-life painting. A year after her husband Leo's death, widow Daisy invites her three adult children to join her for a holiday in beautiful Venice. It will be wonderful, her chicks under one roof again in their father's birthplace. But is it possible to recapture the past? Marc's marriage is in jeopardy, but for his mother's sake, he convinces his wife to keep up appearances. Anna's trying to hide the truth about the dismal state of her London acting career; and Ellie, enjoying a gap year and uncertain about her future choices, wants to avoid family pressure to conform. Despite the magic of Venice, family ties are tested to the limit, especially when a shocking secret from Leo's past is revealed. Now everything they value about love, family, commitment and trust must be re-examined. How can one family holiday require so much courage? Will Daisy's sentimental journey make or break them? From multi-award-winning author Barbara Hannay comes a moving and heartfelt family drama about difficult choices and finding happiness in the most unexpected places. "Myths of Venice is concerned not only with the official iconography of state per se, but with the ways in which such imagery resonates within a culture, the ways in which visual

motifs acquire an aura of association and allusion dependent upon a network of shared values and habits of interpretation."--BOOK JACKET. Like most 18th century Venetians, Adriana d'Amato adores music—except her strict merchant father has forbidden her to cultivate her gift for the violin. But she refuses to let that stop her from living her dreams and begins sneaking out of her family's palazzo under the cover of night to take violin lessons from virtuoso violinist and composer Antonio Vivaldi. However, what begins as secret lessons swiftly evolves into a passionate, consuming love affair. Adriana's father is intent on seeing her married to a wealthy, prominent member of Venice's patrician class—and a handsome, charming suitor, whom she knows she could love, only complicates matters—but Vivaldi is a priest, making their relationship forbidden in the eyes of the Church and of society. They both know their affair will end upon Adriana's marriage, but she cannot anticipate the events that will force Vivaldi to choose between her and his music. The repercussions of his choice—and of Adriana's own choices—will haunt both of their lives in ways they never imagined. Spanning more than 30 years of Adriana's life, Alyssa Palombo's *The Violinist of Venice* is a story of passion, music, ambition, and finding the strength to both fall in love and to carry on when it ends. “Add No Vulgar Hotel to the list of books you must read before you come to Venice.”—Donna Leon This is the definitive book for managing an incurable passion for a decaying, water-logged village. Whether you already have a raging case of Venetophilia or are among the fifteen million people who yearly put themselves in danger of contracting it, here is where you get your fix of Venetian wit, history, practicality, and enchantment. 'An unputdownable thriller' Gregory Dowling 'It is no surprise to find that Philip Gwynne Jones lives in Venice... art and architecture interweave into a story that builds to an almost surreal climax'

Daily Mail ***** A game of cross and double-cross in Venice, one of the most beautiful cities on earth. From his office on the Street of the Assassins, Nathan Sutherland enjoys a steady but unexciting life translating Italian DIY manuals. All this changes dramatically when he is offered a large sum of money to look after a small package containing an extremely valuable antique prayer book illustrated by a Venetian master. But is it a stolen masterpiece - or a brilliant fake? Unknown to Nathan, from a vast mansion on the Grand Canal twin brothers Domenico and Arcangelo Moro, motivated by nothing more than mutual hatred, have been playing out a complex game of art theft for twenty years. And now Nathan finds himself unwittingly drawn into their deadly business . . . *****

Praise for Philip Gwynne Jones 'Superb - always gripping, beautifully constructed and vivid' Stephen Glover 'Sinister and shimmering, The Venetian Game is as haunting and darkly elegant as Venice itself' L.S. Hilton, bestselling author of *Maestra* 'Clever and great fun' The Times 'The Venetian setting is vividly described... good, fluid writing makes for easy reading' Literary Review 'Un-put-downable . . . If you love Venice, you'll love this because you'll be transported there in an instant. If you've not been to Venice, read this book and then go. If you like intrigue, and a clever plot, you'll love this book' Amazon reviewer, 5***** *****

Vengeance in Venice, the second book in Philip Gwynne Jones' sensational Venice series, is available now

A group of senior citizens decide to move in together in *All Together*, a French-language comedy from director Stephanie Robelin. When Claude (Claude Rich) suffers an injury while trying to climb steps in order to meet a woman for a liaison, he and his friends, who are all suffering from some age-related malady, decide to move in together and hire a graduate student to look out for them. Among the new co-tenants are the senile Albert (Pierre Richard) and his wife, the outgoing Jeanne (Jane Fonda) who herself is fighting

cancer. Also living with them is Jean (Guy Bedos) a onetime social crusader who enjoys the wealth he's acquired with his wife Annie (Geraldine Chaplin), who wants nothing more than to visit with her children and grandchildren. As they adjust to their new living arrangements, old jealousies and hurts resurface, forcing everyone to reconsider how they want to spend their golden years. ~ Perry Seibert, Rovi

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