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A sensuous and intelligent historical novel set against the magic of Venice. A moving love story featuring two of the greatest lovers the world has ever known - Casanova and Byron - and introducing a third: Cecilia Cornaro.

Carnevale Details

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From Reader Review Carnevale for online ebook

Diana Matias says

<http://rumoencontrado.blogspot.pt/201...>

Uma leitura cansativa, com personagem cansativas. Começando pelo lendário Casanova já com alguma idade, continua a partir corações, até, de uma menininha na flor da idade que pouco sabe de amor e de sexo. Cecília é essa adolescente que se apaixona perdidamente por um velhote pouco sensual aos nossos olhos. Essa paixão dura anos, e quando Cecília começa a crescer, começa também a tornar-se uma pintora conceituada em Veneza, e mais tarde, por toda a Europa. Esta é a primeira parte do livro. A segunda é já com o conhecido poeta, Byron, um excêntrico jovem apaixonado pelos prazeres da vida e demasiado narcisista. Foi este homem que fez Cecília, já uma quarentona, ficar novamente de queixo caído.

Neste livro vemos 2 opostos: o prazer de amar, de Casanova, e o prazer de ser amado, de Byron. E uma só mulher.

Parece um livro muito interessante, e seria se a escritora não descrevesse tantos pormenores insignificantes para a história. Existem capítulos e mais capítulos sem um único diálogo. Chega a ser desesperante. Tenho a salientar de positivo, a maravilhosa descrição de Veneza, que é capaz de nos apaixonar como também de nos fazer odiar.

Foi um livro muito chato de ler, mas que deu-me alguma cultura.

Nina Lane says

One of my favorite books of all time. Venice in 1782 is a lush, gorgeous decaying city, and 13-year-old Cecilia Coronaro, the daughter of a Venetian merchant, longs to become an artist. She is lured from her house into the arms of Casanova (yes, THE Casanova!), who teaches her all the qualities of tender love.

With that education, Cecilia is unprepared for how to deal with the entry of the cruel and eccentric Lord Byron later in her life. Though Cecilia becomes a successful portrait artist, her love life is a turmoil of conflict between two very different men. Her obsession for Byron and her love for Casanova lead her to examine the depths of her own soul.

I loved the author's portrayals of both Casanova and Byron, and her creation of the fictional Cecilia as the lynchpin to the whole story. Her prose is gorgeous and descriptive -- so much so that the city of Venice becomes a character in and of itself.

Truly beautiful and creative, this is a book unlike any you have read before.

Hawley says

Nah, didn't like it, life it too short to read about characters you dislike.

Anne says

I loved this - witty and outrageous. I read it when we returned from Venice which was great as I could imagine the setting.

Ellie says

I am reading this at the moment, although I am bearly at the end.....(and I have read it before but years ago!)

I really enjoy the way the book is written, the narrator starts as a very young girl, who is seduced by Casanova in Venice.

The story follows her life as an artist, and mixes history and fiction seemlessly and in a way that is both believable and real.

The imagery is wonderful, and allows you to feel like you are part of the action, watching on as events unfold!

Sarah says

A young Venetian women with two very different lovers: Casanova and Lord Byron. I loved the parts where her cat narrated and the chapter proverbs at the start of each chapter.

Jenny Macdonald says

Richly imagined historical novel about a portrait painter Cecilia Cornaro and her lovers Casanova and Byron. Set in 1782 in Venice Lovric captures all the sounds, smells and life of a decadent, sensual, pleasure seeking city. Beginning when Cecilia is just 13 years and seduced by Casanova through to her visit to Albania to paint the Pasha and meeting Byron, her prose and descriptions come to life in your mind. However I do think the book a little long. It started to drag somewhat at the middle and I found the Byron period a little irksome and went on and on. But the ending was just right and the book redeemed itself.

Hannah (fullybookedreviews) says

DNF @ page 200. 50-something Casanova seducing a thirteen year old girl from her bathtub? Yeah. Not my thing.

Chrissie says

This author writes historical fiction as it really should be written. Few authors succeed as she does. She takes all the facts of the time and people and teaches it all to the reader by adding a few fictional characters. The only fictional characters added to this novel are a cat, a gondolier, the main protagonist and her family and husband. Even the husband is a brother of a “real person”. These fictional characters are expertly woven into the real events. It is amazing how closely the author has stuck to the real events. You must be interested in knowing the factual details of the lives of Byron and Casanova. You will be given an extensive quantity of details. You must ask yourself if you will be interested in these details. That will tell you whether this book is for you or not.

There is an excellent epilogue that states yes, this was true and this and this and even this too. You will be amazed that so much of this is completely true. Through the fictional characters all the people and events are tied together. Through the fictional character we go under the skin into the minds of Byron and Casanova. I believe that what the author has “guessed at” is most probably true. The fictional elements are wonderful, but if you are not interested in learning about the real people, about life in Venice and historical events and literature of that time, then you might be bored at times.

Now for the fictional part: I loved the fictional story just as much as the history imbibed. I loved the descriptions of Venice. I loved the cat and the gondolier because they were so wise. And I like that it was a cat and only a “nobody gondolier” that were so darn smart. I loved the ending and the message it gave and what it said about each of the characters. In truth, I loved more HOW the message was fed to us than the message itself. It was the little details of how the moral was said that made my enjoyment of the book so thorough. It is not where a book goes that is that important to me, but rather how it gets to the end point. For example, I love how chocolate plays in at the end, just as much as the final moral given. And I loved the Venetian proverbs that began every chapter. And I loved Casanova, but hated Byron, although I grew to understand what drew women to him.

If I were smarter, if I had known more before starting this novel, I probably would have given it five stars. I was bored at points only due to my own ignorance. The more I read, the more I learned, and the more I enjoyed the book.

Oh, yes! The book is about love, all kinds of love. However if you want a simple love story, do not pick this.

Alia says

I feel like this book took me forever to read. It's not that I didn't like it, because I did, mostly. But the middle part . . . I think the middle part was too long. I really started to dislike the main character during her whole Byron drama, which just seemed to go on and on and on. I liked the beginning of the book, and it ended the way I wanted it to, but I think the middle chunk could have been much shorter and still told the story effectively.

Sílvia says

Nice tie-in between facts and fiction.

A good story about love and how it sometimes define us (but not a love story).

A good lesson on how important is to enjoy torta al ciocollato! ;)

Suzanna says

I had a tough time engaging with this novel initially. I love Lovric's writing and her use of words - she has a unique gift for semantics. However the beginning storyline seemed far-fetched to me in some respects. Setting that aside, around 165 pages into the book I was hooked. (That may sound like a lengthy drudge, but it's a lengthy book.) The book continued to gain momentum until the end.

Michelle says

A beautifully written book that takes you on a journey both through the waterways of Venice and time... Two great historical figures Casanova and Byron equal in the fact that both were libertines and overcame tragic childhoods to excel at living life to full... Stunning depictions of an age long gone, with dark twists and multi layered plotlines.... A must read...

Rachael McDiarmid says

This is a beautifully written book full of passion and poetry. Carnevale links a fascinating Venetian artist with Casanova and then, later in her life, with Lord Byron. It is superbly written. In fact, I think this is one of the best historical fiction books that I've read in recent years. Lovric has awoken a hunger for more information about these interesting, daring, naughty, bad and exotic men, and of course, of Venice - the amazing, intriguing place that some of us fall hopelessly in love with.

Simon Brading says

I loved this book enough to read it three or four times over the year. If you're a fan of Venice or romance you like it.
