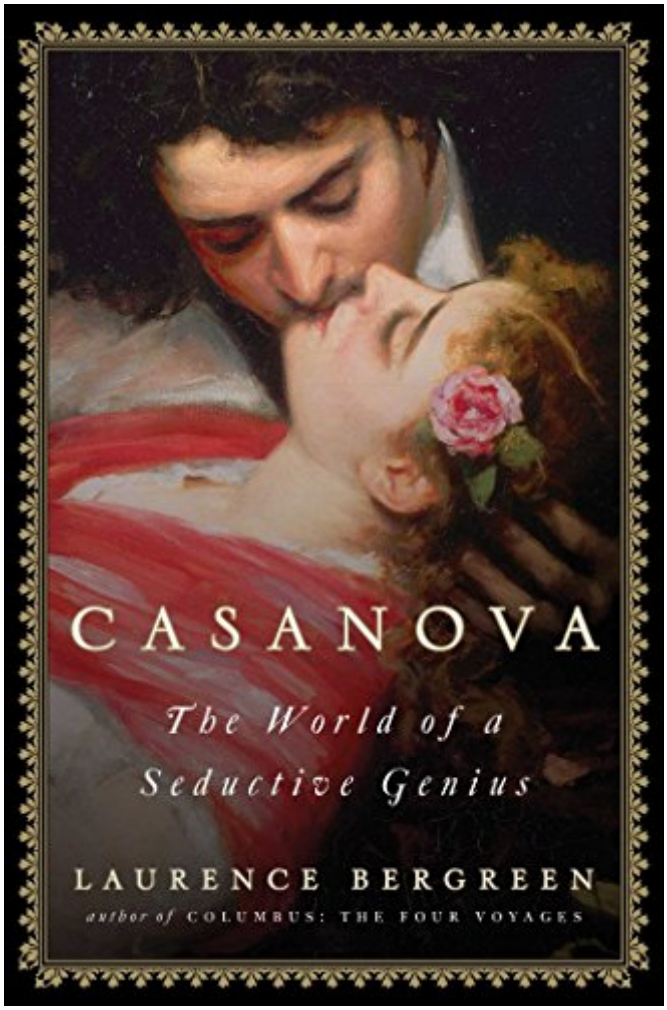
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Casanova: The World Of A Seductive Genius



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Synopsis

The definitive biography of the impoverished child, abandoned by his parents, who became the famous writer, notorious libertine, and self-invented genius whose name still resonates today: Giacomo Casanova.Today, Ã¢â ¬Å“CasanovaÃ¢â ¬Â• is a synonym for Ã¢â ¬Å“great lover,Ã¢â ¬Â• yet the real story of this remarkable figure is little known. Giacomo Casanova was raised by his maternal grandmother, an illiterate peasant. His birthplace, Venice, was a republic in decline, reputedly the most debauched city in Europe. Casanova would add to the republicÃ¢â ¬â„¢s reputation. Over the course of his lifetime, he claimed to have seduced more than 100 women, among them married women, young women in convents, girls just barely in their teens, and in one notorious instance, his own illegitimate daughter. Casanova came of age in a Venice filled with spies and informers. Naturally brilliant, he was intellectually curious and read forbidden books, for which he was jailed. He staged a dramatic escape from VeniceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s notorious prison, the only person known to have done so. He then fled to France, where he invented the national lottery that still exists to this day. But, intemperate by nature, he made enemies at the French court. He crisscrossed Europe, landing for a while in St. Petersburg, where he was admitted to the court of Catherine the Great. He corresponded with Voltaire and met Mozart and Lorenzo da PonteÃ¢â ¬â •assisting them as they composed the timeless opera Don Giovanni. And he wrote what many consider the greatest memoir of the era, the 12-volume Story of My Life. A figure straight out of a Henry Fielding novel: erotic, brilliant, impulsive, and desperate for recognition, Casanova was a self-destructive genius. This witty, roisterous biography exposes his astonishing life in rich, intimate detail. At the same time, it is a dazzling portrait of eighteenth-century Europe from serving girls to kings and courtiers. Esteemed biographer Laurence Bergreen brings a sensual world vividly alive in this irresistible book.

Book Information

File Size: 24701 KB
Print Length: 545 pages
Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1476716498
Publisher: Simon & Schuster (November 1, 2016)
Publication Date: November 1, 2016
Sold by:Ã Â Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc
Language: English
ASIN: B01CO34KY2

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #436,753 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #96 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Italy & Rome #127 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Modern (16th-21st Centuries) > 18th Century #128 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > France

Customer Reviews

It seems so far -- I have only read a hundred pages so far and may not continue -- to be little more than a condensation of and with quotations from Casanova's admittedly lengthy memoir -- with little critical thinking or newly uncovered information added. And it begins on page xvi of the preface with a shocking piece of mis-information: that the white masks worn by Venetians is called the buata when in fact the buata was the lacy black cloth worn below the mask and down across the shoulders. Ought we trust Mr. Bergreen to get other things straight if this basic piece of information is wrong?

Who would have thought Casanova life could be so boring?

Brilliant! Excellent writing, informative, entertaining and educational. I learned so much about Casanova and what an outstanding genius he was. Wonderful storytelling. Buying more of his books right now!

It's great, especially for the backdrop, European life at the time.

Over written and badly written that does little to explain the cultural, political world of a tiresomeand 'dumb' man/child

Rarely do I stop reading a book but I couldn't get through this. I powered through one third and finally gave up. It is so poorly written and boring. It felt like Groundhog Day....a repeat of the

previous chapter. Perhaps this period in history in Venice was interesting but the author doesn't capture my attention. Not worthy of your time.

Very imformative.

Boring book. Every chapter is the same. The names just change. I got through half of it---I just couldn't stand it anymore. So I read the last few chapters and it was more of the same. I didn't know sex was THAT boring. Don't bother to waste your time on this stinker.

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