



## The Passion (Winterson, Jeanette)

By Jeanette Winterson

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Jeanette Winterson's novels have established her as one of the most important young writers in world literature. *The Passion* is perhaps her most highly acclaimed work, a modern classic that confirms her special claim on the novel. Set during the tumultuous years of the Napoleonic Wars, *The Passion* intertwines the destinies of two remarkable people: Henri, a simple French soldier, who follows Napoleon from glory to Russian ruin; and Villanelle, the red-haired, web-footed daughter of a Venetian boatman, whose husband has gambled away her heart. In Venice's compound of carnival, chance, and darkness, the pair meet their singular destiny.

In her unique and mesmerizing voice, Winterson blends reality with fantasy, dream, and imagination to weave a hypnotic tale with stunning effects.

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## **The Passion (Winterson, Jeanette) By Jeanette Winterson Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

In 1985 Jeanette Winterson won the Whitbread Award for best first fiction for the semi-autobiographical *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, an often wry exploration of lesbian possibility bumping up against evangelical fanaticism. She was 25. Two years later, *The Passion*, her third novel, appeared, the fantastical tale of Henri--Napoleon's cook--and Villanelle, a Venetian gondolier's daughter who has webbed feet (previously an all-male attribute), works as a croupier, picks pockets, cross-dresses, and literally loses her heart to a beautiful woman. Written in a lyrical and jolting combination of fairy tale diction and rhythm and the staccato, the book would be a risky proposition in lesser hands. Winterson has said that she wanted to look at people's need to worship and examine what happens to young men in militaristic societies. The question was, how to do so without being polemical and didactic? Only she could have come up with such an exquisite answer. In the end, Henri, incarcerated on an island of madmen, becomes aware that his passion, "even though she could never return it, showed me the difference between inventing a lover and falling in love. The one is about you, the other about someone else."

### **From Publishers Weekly**

This "arresting, elegant novel" uses Napoleon's Europe as the setting for an enticing surrealistic romance between an observer of history and a creature of fantasy. "The slender story is sometimes lost in the strange brew of myth, fact and modernism, but Winterson's assured prose does much to unify her unsettling tale," determined PW .

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### **From Library Journal**

Villanelle, the web-footed daughter of a Venetian boatman, is an exotic gamine whose odd, overlapping love affairs are doomed at the outset. As she spars with an aloof society matron in a complex, passionate, and ungratifying game of sexual masquerade, she slips into a concurrent and equally futile love/hate relationship with Henri, Napoleon's chef. Although Winterson has set her story in early 19th-century Europe, her writing style is incongruously contemporary and idiomatic. Despite the strangely fascinating plot, featuring a chillingly unexpected climax, the erratic and nearly incomprehensible structure in which the time period and the narrator's identity are often unclear make this novel irritatingly inaccessible. Ronald L. Coombs, SUNY Health Science Ctr. Lib., Brooklyn, N.Y.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Andre Roop:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a e-book your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this kind of *The Passion* (Winterson, Jeanette) book as beginner and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Alejandro Jones:**

The reason why? Because this *The Passion* (Winterson, Jeanette) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

**Wanda Sousa:**

*The Passion* (Winterson, Jeanette) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing *The Passion* (Winterson, Jeanette) however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

**Linda Soto:**

Is it a person who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This *The Passion* (Winterson, Jeanette) can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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