



The Passion Dream Book

Whitney Otto

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"The Passion Dream Book" travels from the Italian Renaissance, when a girl spends her days spying on a young Michelangelo and experiences the divided love of wanting the artist and wanting to be the artist, to the early years of the twentieth century, when the novel follows Romy March, a descendant of the Renaissance girl, and Augustine Marks, who are both artists. The novel is an imaginative mix of fact and fiction, history and story, about the two enduring, occasionally conflicting passions of love and work. As Romy March and Augustine Marks migrate from place to place, separately and together, their love is their home, and their home is each other. The outsider lives they lead take them from one cultural scene to another: silent-era Hollywood, the Harlem Renaissance, Paris in the late 1920s, and back to the United States. The novel touches on the migratory habits of artists' colonies; the search for and creation of identity as an artist and a lover; and how one lives when tradition doesn't hold.

The Passion Dream Book Details

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Author : Whitney Otto

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From Reader Review The Passion Dream Book for online ebook

Jenelle says

Otto knows how to tell a love story.

Dianne says

Again, pure magic. Romance, adventure, life. Oh, and interracial romance way before it was accepted and so subtly done. Just a lovely book.

Karen Hogan says

A young girl dreams of being an artist in Italy in the 1600's intertwined with the story of a girl with the same dream in 1900 Amercia. Read 80 pages, but it was not compelling enough to finish

Rachel says

"...in general, she carries herself as if she believes the world is entirely unconcerned with her." (p.19)

"...nothing was more important than his fabulous solitary world. The universe over which he ruled." (p.26)

"...you all think in gold, and there isn't enough gold in the world to pay for what I make. You decide the price, I don't, because we both know it has no price." (p.28)

"She wants to say 'I don't think the rest of the world ever gives me a thought'. She wants to say, 'Then why did you expose me to paintings and dancing and music and books? To teach me to admire but not to covet? To show me that it noble to love the arts without loving the artist? And what about the gifts of paints, pencils, and paper? Was it all just to fill up my childhood time?'" (p.73)

"...her grades began to slip because all the classrooms and ideas and lessons made her claustrophobic. The students were too passive, the teachers too dictatorial, and Romy felt she was suffocating, fighting for air that was altogether too thin." (p.74)

"I never said I was the best. Maybe I could have been better. But the public likes what I do, what I have done. Somehow I was in touch with my time." (p.201)

"What do you think about Miro saying 'one must be ready to work amidst total indifference and the most profound obscurity'?" (p.246)

"Art is the thing that lasts. The popes, the dukes, the princes and kings wanted a small piece of immortality." (p.248)

Elizabeth Rowley says

I re-read this book after about 15 years and it's still a favorite.

Suanne Laqueur says

I thought it was delicious. It made me want to be a bohemian. It made me want to take pictures. It's a very beautiful and poignant love story as well, and thank God for happy endings (I won't say any more than that).

Lori says

I love this book and have read it about once a year since my first read. The story is so unique from unique voices during very artistically and socially poignant times.

Meg Sanchez says

This book is for artists and romantics written by an artist and a romantic. It's not just a love story, it's a rose-colored view of life which I believe is the most beautiful way of looking at our lives inspite of all its pitfalls. This book moved me and inspired me to live my life as if Bernini or Shakespeare or Baudelaire or Nureyev or Chopin or Michelangelo were a part of me everyday. <3

Nancy says

Good read, thought I was reading a poem, it flowed.

Janaree Nore says

I've read this book twice and often give it away. The first section, kind of a pre-amble to the story, turns people off. It was meant to give an extended generational importance to the plot line. Once you get past that, the rest of the book is unoffensive in anyway (I should hope).

This author made her fame with How to make an American Quilt which then was made into a major motion picture. In my opinion, the Passion Dream Book is better.

It is about two artists, he and she, that spend a lifetime trying to do their art. Their passion to do photography, paint, sculpt etc takes them to Harlem Renaissance dinner parties as well as Paris during the war. Although their love relationship has to take second place to their art passions in order for it to survive. Often the

storyline is bittersweet.

I've told many people that this is my signature book....that I wish I would have written it. Friends have told me that the book isn't as great as I think it is. One friend thinks that the author threw everything out the window at the end because she didn't know how to end it. I think she ended it in the open-ended don't-make-any-decisions way that many stories (and movies) end in now a days.

Let me know what your thoughts were when you finished.

Hollie Rose says

(If this review, written by me in 2003, is true, I should read this book again!)

It's very rich and filled with subtle insights into what life is really like. I love the writing style and the characters too. Especially Romy, the main female of the story - she's wonderfully strong and true to herself. It starts with a bit of personal history from Michaelangelo's day then jumps to the story of the love of Augustine and Romy in the 20s, the 30s, the 40s and even into the 50s. It carries me along on the wings of the hearts of artists. I read it in small bits easily and hungrily, absorbing every word. I didn't want it to end. It's simple and stunning the way events are related. Definitely the best book I've read so far this year.

Pau says

This book is slow and a bit disjointed. If you're looking for a fast-paced, thrilling, and exciting book, this isn't for you. This book was meant to be poignant. It feels more like a series of short stories starring the same character. Its lack of flow may be intentional and was meant to convey time that had passed, a character's emotional development, as well as the introduction of a significant setting.

The "disjointed" feel left me confused. It started with the world of Giulietta Marcel. Well, no. It actually started with art lessons. This is a recurring theme in the book. I found all those parts boring as the author failed to say anything new or say things in a new way. The narrative was separate from the characters and the book could have done without it.

The book fast forwards suddenly into post-WWI Los Angeles where we meet the "real" main characters: Romy March and Augustine Marks. For the most part, it is Romy's story, with a little bit of Augustine. The two are star-crossed lovers and their love story is as complicated as it gets. I suppose this was to depict stereotypical of artists (the book leans towards this).

The love story is interesting enough. The whole first bit in Florence wouldn't tie in with the book until very late. Giulietta's box is kept by Romy, a memento from an ancestor. I didn't realize until the very end that Giulietta's quick wrap-up was a clue to Romy and Augustine's fate (because it's just that scattered).

The narrative is dry. I like dry but this is just too dry for me, a bit like Twilight's narrative. The ending is decent and I quite liked it. Overall, not my most favorite book. However, I read this book for a long time. I'm thinking that I lost a bit because I didn't read it continuously. Granted, it was difficult to pick every time.

Last, the cover is gorgeous.

Nicole says

"I thoroughly enjoyed this book and was thrilled to be taken around the world by these splendidly loveable characters."

Full Review; <http://bookywooks.blogspot.com/2010/0...>

Amanda says

This is one of my all time favorite books. The courage and brevity of the heroine inspires me to take that bold step forward even when the way is not clear.

Nicole says

I was a little confused at first by the change of time in that she set up the renaissance and then didn't really go back to it. Slow in pieces but good.
