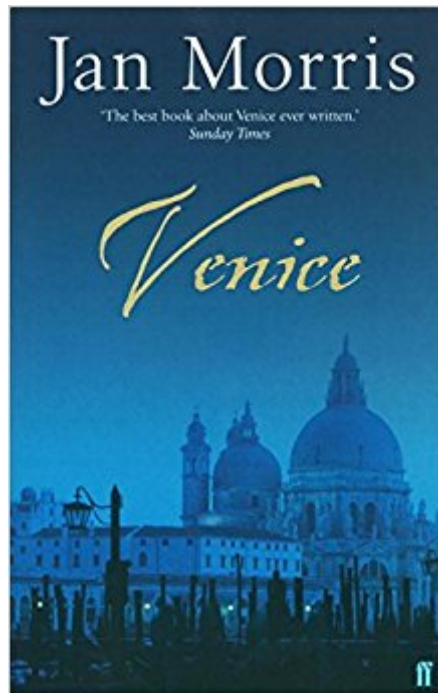




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# Venice



## Synopsis

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).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here, revised and introduced by the author, is Jan Morris's portrait of La Serenissima, published 50 years ago and still without equal. She cherishes every cranny: the city's 3,000 alleyways, its jails, its waterways and its buildings decaying like 'dukes in threadbare ermine'. She presents its past, its art and its language, which Byron called 'sweet bastard Latin'. A suitably respectful narration - with an

Italian flourish. - Rachel Redford, *The Observer* If you are going to Venice this summer, and even if you are not, Jan Morris's *Venice* makes excellent listening. Newly revised, it is introduced by the 84-year-old Morris herself, then the dulcet voice of Sebastian Comberti takes over narration. It opens historically but takes in architecture, culture, practicalities (the boats of the fire, police and ambulance services, the rubbish collectors who are slowly creating a whole new island) and the mysteries of death. Morris fell in love with Venice when there during the Second World War, and her accumulation of memories is heartfelt, personal, quirky and enlightening. Perfect for a leisurely approach by Eurostar and night train to Venice, but just as good for whiling away the dull hours commuting to work. - Christina Hardyment, *The Times* 'I was in my 20s when I wrote this,' says Morris in the introduction to her best known travel book, 'and I like to think that its faults are the heady faults of youth.' What faults? Fifty years on, it is still the best all-round guide to a city that, despite the ever-present hordes of tourists, remains the most magical destination on earth. Listening to this equally magical audio made me long to go back and check out all those less touristy bits that so enthralled young Morris - the alley too narrow for Browning to open his umbrella, the crypt allegedly containing Mary Magdalen's finger, the fish market 'laden with sleek wriggling eels, still pugnaciously alive, beautiful little red fish packed in boxes like shampoos, heads upwards ... soft bulbous octopus furiously injecting ink ... a multitude of sea matter ... sliding, sinuous, shimmering, flabby, spongy, crisp, all lying aghast upon their fresh green biers dead, doomed or panting like a grove of brilliant foliage among the tundra of Venetian stone.' Yes, the descriptions do go on a bit, but that's part of the charm. It was written, says Morris, 'in a rush of enthusiasm like the splurge of a love affair'. The enthusiasm is infectious. Venetian history, culture, religion, food - she relishes them all, from the glory years between the 12th and 15th centuries when La Serenissima controlled the trade routes between east and west, to the nuns at one of the more fashionable convents claiming their right to supply a mistress for the new papal nuncio, to the notice on the Grand Canal: 'It is forbidden to spit on the swimmers.' Don't go to Venice without it. - Sue Arnold, *The Guardian* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jan Morris was born in 1926 of a Welsh father and an English mother, and when she is not travelling she lives with her partner Elizabeth Morris in the top left-hand corner of Wales, between the mountains and the sea. Her books include *Coronation Everest*, *Venice*, *The Pax Britannica Trilogy* (*Heaven's Command*, *Pax Britannica*, and *Farewell the Trumpets*), and *Conundrum*. She is also the author of six books about cities and countries, two autobiographical books, several volumes of collected travel essays and, more recently, the unclassifiable *Trieste* and *The Meaning of*

Nowhere. A Writer's World, a collection of her travel writing and reportage from over five decades, was published in 2003. Hav, her novel, was published in a new and expanded form in 2006 and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Arthur C. Clarke Award. Her most recent book, Contact!, about the people she encountered on her many travels, was published in 2009.

This is a truly excellent book about my favourite city. If you know Venice, it will delight you. If you have never been there it will inspire you to visit. Beautifully written with many interesting facts and anecdotes. It is probably one of the best books about this fascinating city. I would definitely recommend this really enjoyable book.

Brilliant writing. Not quite history, not quite modern, this held my attention far more than I expected.

If you have or have not been to Venice, this book will inspire your passion for this most remarkable city. Incredibly written, with very insightful observations of the local Venetians, the awesome beauty surrounding you wherever you turn, and the authors' educated knowledge of the history of the founding of this ancient seaside city itself. The book includes the descriptions of the beauty of the architecture, the internationally re-known Venetian artists are all included. The personal experiences the author has, while living in the city with his family, make anyone want to live in Venice for at least a year.

Jan Morris takes you on a fascinating, colourful and intriguing journey from the imaginative founding of Venice on a marsh at the narrow between west and east through the height of its power to its morphing into one of the most beautiful architecturally and historically satisfying cities in the world.

this is the best book about Venice and is much more than a travel book. it leads you to nooks and crannies you would never find on your own, it takes you through Venice today. murano glass, great churches and fine boat yards

A fantastic book which informs in a delightful and whimsical way leaving you longing to stroll with the author though the streets of Venice.

This book is an oldie but a goodie. Even though the first edition was many years ago, the joy of Venice still shines though Jan Morris' writing and having visited Venice earlier this year, found the

book most rewarding.

Wonderful book!! Thanks for speedy delivery too.

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