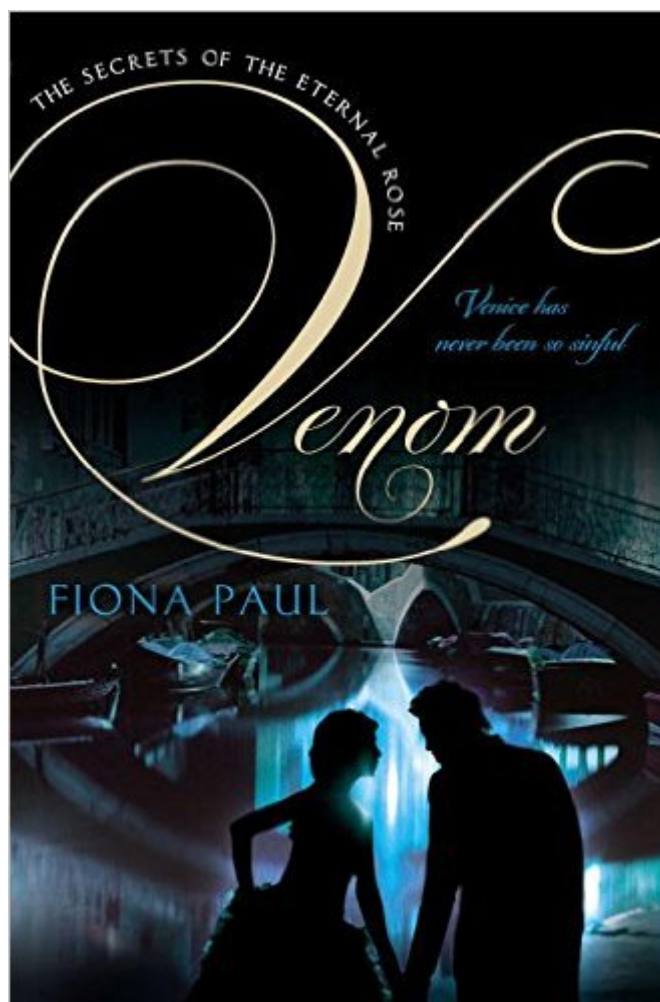


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# Venom (Secrets Of The Eternal Rose)



## Synopsis

Love, lust, murder, mayhem and high society converge in one thrilling debut Part Gossip Girl, part Edgar Allan Poe, and wholly beautiful, elegant and suspenseful, this novel set in Venice during the Renaissance is a true romantic thriller. When Cassandra Caravallo visits her friend Liviana's crypt and finds a murdered courtesan inside, her world is turned upside down. Before she knows it, Cass is involved with Falco, a grave-robbing artist, and on her way to discovering corruption in the elite Venetian society. But will she find the man who's been savagely murdering beautiful young girls before he finds her? Will she stay true to her fiance, who's off studying law in France? Or will she succumb to Falco's charms? Beauty, love, romance and murder combine in a novel that's as seductive and stunning as Venice itself.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (86 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Set in Renaissance Venice, *Venom* is a fabulous YA historical fiction and one that I instantly fell in love with. Blending together romance, mystery, family drama and lush historical setting, Fiona Paul weaves a compelling and highly addictive plot line full of thrilling events and dangerous encounters. Featuring mutilated corpses, secret societies, a mysterious (and seductive) artist and a steaming romance that is just as exciting as it is forbidden, *Venom* is a phenomenal beginning to a new and gorgeously imagined YA series. What an absolutely fantastic read! I devoured it in just one day! *Venom* is full of delicious kisses and steamy love scenes. The chemistry is almost unbearable (in a good way!). Paul's descriptions are amazingly detailed and they're sure to make you blush. If you're

a kissing enthusiast you will love this book! And the best part is, even though the characters are almost instantly attracted to each other (whether they admit it or not), the romance builds up at a very good, not-too-fast pace. Spiced up with danger and mystery, it's one of the most swoon-worthy books I've read this year. Hot! Venom's heroine is strong and that's a quality I always appreciate in characters. Engaged to Luca de Perega (an arranged marriage that has nothing to do with love and affection), she's a high-society girl who always has to look and behave flawlessly. Don't let that fool you though, Cass is the exact opposite of a pampered girl. She's down-to-earth, clever, modest, impetuous and very curious. Having lost both of her parents at a young age, she's emotionally mature, but also a little bit insecure and yearning for love. Personally, I thought she was a great character - easy to like and sympathize with, relatable, authentic.

HOLY GUACAMOLE. This book was awesome. Full out blow my mind awesome. The book, characters, plot, they all stayed with me for days, weeks, after I read it. I am so happy I got a copy!

**The World:**The world of Venom made me felt as if it was fantasy somehow. The descriptions of Venice were absolutely enchanting and the fact that underneath the beautiful waterways and glittering jewels there were grave robbers, illicit meetings, and murdered women...well, let's just say if I hadn't already been absolutely caught up in the book, I was then. The way that Fiona Paul weaves her world is spectacular and magical.

**The Characters:**Let's start with Cass. I absolutely adored Cass! Unlike a lot of other heroines in historical, she doesn't use extreme measures to get out of an engagement. Sure she wasn't exactly ecstatic, but she accepted it. Cass was adventurous, brave, and willing. Not to mention stubborn and insanely protective of her friends.

**Falco!** MEEP! Falco was definitely the boy I was rooting for. With his dark looks and scandalous suggestions, I found myself laughing, giggling, and falling hard right there with Cass. My heart was in my throat at one point where Cass and Falco were...not exactly at good odds.

**The Plot:**The plot had twists and turns that I never would've believed in other circumstances. I would think one thing and Fiona Paul would tell me something else. You have no idea how many times my mouth popped open in shock.

What struck me as different than other Historical fictions though, was the fact that it wasn't as...boring as others. Venom was so much more scandalous and had more action, romance, than others and that definitely made me love Venom all the more.

This book has been on my radar for quite some time because Antony John, the author of Five Flavors of Dumb and the soon to be released Elemental, has lauded this one up and down heartily. And if he is backing it, I'm in!

Venom by Fiona Paul centers on Cassandra, an upper class teenager,

who is already set to marry Luce, another noble. She lives in Venice, which is richly described (and if anyone doesn't want to visit this place after reading this book is definitely deranged), and falls for an artist, Falco, whom she meets in a graveyard of all places. We, as readers, are swept from one gorgeous location to the next, as we creep around in the dark, and take multiple gondola rides, trying to figure out who is murdering beautiful young women in Venice and the secrets we know most other characters are hiding. I really enjoyed reading this book. One of the greatest strengths of this novel, which I already alluded to, is the setting. I'll tell you upfront, I am not a setting girl, but I desperately want to put Venice way higher on my MUST VISIT list just after reading this book. I felt like I was seeing all of the beautiful buildings, visiting all the gorgeous landscapes. The atmosphere was so deftly painted that I felt like I was there. I also loved all the great twists at the end, and I'm always a huge fan of murder mysteries. Surprisingly, the biggest strength in this novel to me (the setting) also presented somewhat of an issue-- because the setting was so dramatic and amazing, it almost overshadows the characters. I liked Cass for the most part, and was definitely interested in Luce and the mysterious Falco, but there's much more growth and development I'd like to see in those characters.

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