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The Unfinished Palazzo: Life, Love And Art In Venice: The Stories Of Luisa Casati, Doris Castlerosse And Peggy Guggenheim



Synopsis

The story of Venice's "Unfinished Palazzo" is told through the lives of three of its most unconventional, passionate, and fascinating residents: Luisa Casati, Doris Castlerosse, and Peggy Guggenheim. Commissioned in 1750, the Palazzo Venier was planned as a testimony to the power and wealth of a great Venetian family, but the fortunes of the Veniers waned midconstruction and the project was abandoned. Empty, unfinished, and decaying, the building was considered an eyesore until the early twentieth century when it attracted and inspired three women at key moments in their lives: Luisa Casati, Doris Castlerosse, and Peggy Guggenheim. Luisa Casati turned her home into an aesthete's fantasy where she hosted parties as extravagant and decadent as Renaissance court operas, spending small fortunes on her own costumes in her quest to become a "living work of art" and muse. Doris Castlerosse strove to make her mark in London and Venice during the glamorous, hedonistic interwar years, hosting film stars and royalty at glittering parties. In the postwar years, Peggy Guggenheim turned the Palazzo into a model of modernist simplicity that served as a home for her exquisite collection of modern art that today draws tourists and art lovers from around the world. Each vivid life story is accompanied by previously unseen materials from family archives, weaving an intricate history of these legendary art world eccentrics. 69 illustrations

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Customer Reviews

Judith Mackrell is a dance critic and author.

A fascinating story of three incredible and ambitious women who all achieved their moment in the sun and suffered an ignominious death. Only one, Peggy Guggenheim left an everlasting legacy. There story is told around life Venice and the Palazzo they all once occupied, now the Guggenheim museum. A great historical biography.

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