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# Daughter Of Venice



## Synopsis

In 1592, Donata is a noble girl living in a palazzo on the Grand Canal. Girls of her class receive no education and rarely leave the palazzo. In a noble family, only one daughter and one son will be allowed to marry; Donata, like all younger daughters, will be sent to a convent. Donata longs to be tutored like her brothers and to see the Venice she has glimpsed only on the map. What is the world beyond her balcony, beyond what she sees when she glides, veiled, in a gondola down the canal? She dresses as a boy and escapes the palazzo on the Grand Canal to see the world before she is shut away, and to try to find a way to escape her fate. Donata risks everything; she changes her life, and her family's life, forever when she walks through the door and encounters a Venice she never knew existed. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Award-winning author Donna Jo Napoli whisks young readers away to glittering Renaissance Venice in this first-rate historical novel about a young woman who longs to experience the wide world beyond her cloistered window. The year is 1592, and 14-year-old Donata is a pampered member of the noble Mocenigo family. But Donata is restless. Always confined to the palazzo, she is tired of learning everything second-hand from her brothers. And she is angered by the Venetian law that states only her older sister may marry. Donata knows that the only destiny that awaits her is

the convent or maiden aunt-hood, neither of which are very appealing. "The mysteries of Venice are like a rainbow--and I am soon to be shut away from them." But as part of an elaborate scheme to outwit her parents, Donata decides to disguise herself as a beggar boy. Finally, she sees the real Venice, and it is both as beautiful as she had believed and more horribly raw than she could have ever imagined. Now she has no idea how she can ever reconcile what she has learned with the life she is expected to lead. Based on one of the first acknowledged female Venetian scholars, *Daughter of Venice* is so rich with historical detail and intrigue that readers will quickly feel the desperation and exhilaration of Donata's daring deception. Napoli provides an authentic taste of this complex society on the brink of change and the ancient rules that still bound its women both physically and mentally. A gorgeous, bountiful book. (Ages 10 to 15) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Napoli returns to the locale of *Stones in Water* and *For the Love of Venice*, this time for a costume drama set in the late 16th century. At 14, Donata Mocenigo and her twin sister watch carefully as their noble parents set about finding a husband for their older sister. Venetian economics dictate that one daughter of a noble family will surely wed, but only with luck will a second daughter be married the remaining daughters either enter convents or care for a married brother's children. Eschewing a traditional romance, Napoli forges a plot with contemporary elements. Donata wants to see Venice and receive the same education as her brothers; she studies the family business and embraces what facts she can uncover about Venetian history and politics. Obtaining a working-class boy's clothes, she disguises herself and sets out on furtive daytime explorations of her beloved city. Soon she is befriended by an attractive young Jewish boy, who helps her find a morning job as a copyist (even though she can't read or write); with help from her sisters, her escapades go unnoticed by her parents. Enjoying the tour of historical Venice and the taste of its complex society and government, readers may not mind Donata's seeming immunity to the mores and prejudices of her day not even when, to avoid an arranged marriage, she anonymously and falsely denounces herself as a convert to Judaism and still earns herself a happy ending. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a nice middle-school historical fiction work. Purchased for a nine-year-old visiting Venice for the first time. Humanizes the city in a fun way! The main character is likeable and her adventures seem realistic, if bold. The author fleshes out the social strata of the time in a relevant and relatable

way. The story moves along at a nice pace, with a bit of romantic feelings described but no descriptions of sexual contact/kissing of any kind. I'm not a scholar of history, so can't speak to the accuracy of the author's research. We both enjoyed reading this. Highly recommended!

A great book about culture long ago, which is so interesting for my nine year old. I learned about early times in Venice right along with her. Highly recommended - wishing there was a continuation of the story.

Love this author's books and feel sure that we be the case with this one as well. Have already ready first chapter and am already involved with the main character. Book was used and in the condition I expected.

Daughter of Venice by Donna Jo Napoli is a wonderful young adult novel set in Venice in the 1590s. Donata Mocenigo, the fourteen-year-old daughter of a noble family with twelve children, lives a sheltered life. She has never been taught to read and write, and she rarely leaves her family's palazzo, except in the company of her mother and sisters. Because her family can afford a dowry for only one daughter, her oldest sister Andriana and Donata and her sisters will be forced to join a convent. Donata has no desire to spend her life in a convent, and she longs to explore the city. Disguising herself as a poor boy, she sneaks out of the palazzo, wanders through Venice, and ends up in the Ghetto, where she meets a young Jewish man, Noam, who works in a printer's shop. Donata works as a copyist in the shop, and she learns how the Jewish community and the poor of Venice live, and becomes a more compassionate person, realizing how selfish she's been by making her sisters account for her frequent absences. She falls in love with Noam, who does not realize she's a girl, but knows they can never be together because he's Jewish and she's Catholic. When she returns to the palazzo, she asks to sit in on her brothers' lessons with their tutor, and discovers that she has a great love of learning. But, since she's a girl, university study, which her brothers wish for, is denied her. Then it turns out that her father can afford a dowry for her, after all, but it's her twin sister, Laura, who wishes to marry. And her family becomes suspicious of her absences. Will she be able to set things right, so Laura can marry? And then what will become of Donata in the future? Will she tell Noam she's a girl, and will they have a future together, in spite of the difference in their religions? Author Napoli makes you want to

keep turning the pages for every step of Donata's adventures, and you can't help but wish that things will turn out well for her. Daughter of Venice is a young adult novel, but any reader with an interest in Venice or the Italian Renaissance, or in a good historical novel, will want to read it.

Our family spent time in Venice last summer, and I love sustaining that magic with my 8 year old daughter as we read. The Thief Lord is maybe her favorite book, and we also just read Daughter of Venice by Donna Jo Napoli. There is some reference to prostitution, which I sort of skipped over, so it's up to you how young a child you would feel comfortable reading it to, but my daughter is a pretty sophisticated reader otherwise. SPOILER ALERT: I love that while it seems it might end up being a love story, it's really about empowering girls via education.

Enjoy!<https://www..com/Daughter-Venice-Donna-Jo-Napoli/dp/0440229286>

The premise of the book started off very well. Daughter of a noble family, under strict rules and protocols for women sneaks out to explore Venice on her own. Exciting. Problem was that it wasn't very exciting at all. A couple of mishaps, she lands at a Jewish copyists and eventually falls in love with him while pretending to be a boy. The plot sort of plods along for awhile and I agree with other reviews where the ending just sort of falls apart. It winds up quickly and seems to end just for lack of nothing really else to do with this character. She resigns herself to a life she didn't want. Although she says she doesn't want to marry or have children, yet she did fall in love. But then decides, no she wont marry after all. Disappointing book overall. I have been to Venice and am fascinated by its history. I saw this in a used bookstore and picked it up for \$1.00.

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