

Chapter 1 : Review: The City of Falling Angels by John Berendt | Books | The Guardian

The City of Falling Angels is Berendt's first book since Midnight, and it immediately reminds one what all the fuss was about. Turning to the magic, mystery, and decadence of Venice, Berendt gradually reveals the truth behind a sensational fire that in destroyed the historic Fenice opera house.

John Berendt arrives in Venice three days after a terrible fire has destroyed the historic Fenice. He acknowledges that his arrival during this time is purely coincidental, as he had planned the trip months ago. He had wished to visit Venice during the off-season for tourists because he wanted to capture the essence of Venice; an essence, according to him, that lies within the Venetians. After his arrival, Berendt is intrigued by the fire and by the investigation into the fire. He decides to take up residence in Venice for a few months to write a book on the city of Venice and the Venetians. Berendt rents an apartment from Peter and Rose Lauritzen, who live upstairs from his apartment. They are quick to tell him the history of the Fenice, as well as their theory on what really happened. Rose also shares with Berendt how to get the resident discount. She explains to him that all tourists are overcharged or otherwise taken advantage of. She shares the secrets of where he should make himself known in order to be charged the same amount as a citizen of Venice rather than as a tourist. He becomes friends with Count Girolamo Marcello who shares his theories with just about anyone who will listen. Berendt also becomes friends with a painter, Ludovico de Luigi, with whom he spends a lot of time while in Venice. In addition to making friends, Berendt also takes up the task of interviewing several important people. After the first investigation is done, the fire is ruled accidental. However, later on in the book, the fire is investigated again and this time is ruled arson. Berendt is surprised at the ruling and is chastised by Ludovico. Berendt shares the details of the trial of the two electricians charged with the arson: Enrico Carella and Massimiliano Marchetti. The two electricians are found guilty and sentenced to six and seven years in prison. Marchetti surrenders himself while Carella is nowhere to be found. During all of the trial, the Fenice is being rebuilt. The original company that is hired to do the reconstruction is forced to stop work two weeks into the job. Another company takes over, but cannot begin work until the dispute is settled. Finally, the Fenice is unveiled and the story comes to a close. Berendt does not leave any open holes though; he fills the reader in on what happened in every event he discusses. This section contains words approx.

Chapter 2 : The City of Falling Angels - Reading Guide - Book Club Discussion Questions

The City of Falling Angels uses the exact same formula as Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. Berendt gives us a biography of a city told through the lives of some of its most colorful citizens, all set against the backdrop of a crime--a Berendt's previous book, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil was an international bestseller and I.

Simon talks to people. Jace and Clary talk to each other and kiss. Simon talks to new guy. Jace and Clary talk to each other. Clary talks to people. Simon and Jace talk about Clary. Simon bites , ummmm, talks to girls and has relationship issues. Part Two Ch New guy is revealed. Wonder woman saves the day. Wow, something actually happened People talk about the Vampire chat. Jace and Clary do stuff. Weird stuff is revealed. Clary believes in Jace. But wait - someone is alive! Making light of a bad situation is just something I try to do. I actually really liked the original series. My first experience with this genre was The Mortal Instruments which had just released the third book. Out of pure desperation, the fact that it was a derivative was not even almost a deterrent. Clare told a fast-paced and action filled YA suspense, which was exactly what I needed at the time. The first three Mortal Instruments had this addictive quality that made you need to read more, which led me to read this one. So while I still hold true to my original feelings of the first books and have a sick yet fond place in my heart for them, I truly feel that this particular series should have ended where City of Glass left us. It saddens me to think that I may have contributed to the mass production of unnecessary sequels. What exactly she deserves to be rolling in No speculation is actually necessary. I liked Jace in the original books. But I soon realized how destructive this small adoration can become. Now, Fangirl mobbing is truly my greatest fear. A hot one, yes, and I readily admit to secret desires of being pursued by a "bad boy". By the way that girls talk about him, you would think that his saliva is made of awesomesauce. Or that his face is made of The Ark of the Covenant. Your skin might melt off. I wanted to like this and wanted my Jace crush to transfer over to this book. I swear I did. Objectivity is something we should all strive for with every read. Even after hearing bad things about a specific book, one can still have an open mind. Sometimes when an avid reader reads a mega-hyped book such as this, we can take on a similar persona to that of Bill and Ted. They are all about the excellent adventure. First and foremost with YA fantasy - we, mostly, want to be entertained. All the better if we learn something or absorb a good message while doing it, but the entertainment part is essential. At the time, I thought there was quite a bit of good humor in the originals. The corners of my mouth never even lifted. In fact, a scowl probably made an appearance or two This book is to "funny" what vampires are to "real". Every few pages I felt the need to go for a spin in my car with my head hanging out the window just to stay awake. The suspense, the tension, the action - everything I liked about the originals was gone. I may have entertained myself about this book, but this book did NOT entertain me. Not for one second. This is a repeat. And not even a funny rerun. The Giver teaches us that human emotion is essential to our lives. What did City of Fallen Angels teach us? If so, I apologize for my oversight. This one was much more difficult to find that "good part", but I still managed to. So despite not laughing once as a result of a joke in the book, I found myself, alone, laughing hysterically in my room about how horribly pointless this book was or about random crap that I find funny, usually involving Jace and Clary. Somehow, I managed to amuse myself. Dumb stuff dances through my head like a frisky stallion does through a meadow full of unicorns. I wonder if Jace is part unicorn, because unicorns are made of awesomesauce and rainbows I bet Jace is made of rainbows. Or at least, Clary seems to think so - Just wait until she figures out that he has NO pots of gold. And before I go find something awesome to read, I have something to ask you: Both Jace and Clary are drowning. You can only save one. What should you do?

Chapter 3 : The City of Falling Angels - Discussion Questions

The City of Falling Angels opens on the evening of January 29, , when a dramatic fire destroys the historic Fenice opera house. The loss of the Fenice, where five of Verdi's operas premiered, is a catastrophe for Venetians.

The opera house was being restored, and was supposed to reopen within a month. When the fire broke out, a million things went swiftly and horribly wrong: They had to collect water from the Grand Canal and bring it over by helicopter - by then, the opera house was in flames and there was no way to stop it. The fire department had to focus on keeping the fire from spreading to the rest of the very flammable city, and as a result the inhabitants of Venice were forced to watch, weeping, as the centuries-old opera house burned to the ground in front of them. Berendt describes people watching the destruction of the opera house as they try to keep their own homes from catching fire, and the most anyone can do is watch the fire and cry, while every now and then we get lines like, "A deafening crash resounded in the depths of the Fenice. The great crystal chandelier had fallen to the floor. He interviews judges, restoration experts, lawyers, and just about everyone who witnessed the fire they include an Italian count and an elderly glassblower. People suspect that the Fenice fire was arson, possibly the result of the Mafia. Only the start of one, unfortunately. If this book had just been about the Fenice fire, the investigation, and the restoration process, it would have been really interesting and illuminating. Then thirty-eight pages on the previously-mentioned expat family. Then thirty pages on a poet who killed himself, or maybe not. Yes, I counted all of those pages. No, none of those side stories have anything to do with the Fenice fire. No, none of them are even mildly interesting, except maybe the Pound one. Yes, every single conflict Berendt shows us is explored in nitpicking depth, and then dropped without a satisfying conclusion. Yes, it is irritating. I think, ultimately, the problem with this book was that it was presented wrong. I went into it expecting an in-depth investigation of a real-life mystery: Instead, I got a wandering, often overly-detailed look at the inhabitants of Venice and their daily drama. Had Berendt written this book as a series of essays on Venice, as another reviewer recommended, that would have been good. If he had presented the book as a portrait of Venetians and been more clear about the fact that the Fenice fire was more of a subplot, that would have also been fine. As things are, however, I was not expecting most of what I was shown in this book, and it was disappointing. That being said, I really really want to go to Venice now.

Chapter 4 : Observer review: The City of Falling Angels by John Berendt | Books | The Guardian

The City of Falling Angels () is a non-fiction work by John Berendt. The book tells the story of some interesting inhabitants of Venice, Italy, whom the author met while living there in the months following a fire which destroyed the historic La Fenice opera house in

The book was released on April 5, She says that if Simon joins her side as the Daylighter, he will finally earn his place in the vampire society. After his meeting, he returns home worried about what his mother would think, as she has been suspicious since he went to Idris in City of Glass and did not return for a few days. Although Magnus Bane erased memories of his absence, she was still subconsciously suspicious about his whereabouts. Simon is attacked several times. Each time, the Mark of Cain placed on him by Clary works, and anyone who tries to attack him quickly meets a biblical "sevenfold" death. When he arrives home, his mother confronts him about the blood she has found hidden in his closet, and he is forced to tell her what he has become. She believes that he is no longer her son and begins to pray. Meanwhile, Jace has been having dreams in which he murders Clary, which makes Jace want to avoid her. This makes Clary worry what is going on between them. Clary and her mother Jocelyn also discover that someone is trying to create more demonic children like Sebastian when they see a baby with clawed hands and black eyes at the hospital. Maureen, a fourteen-year-old, follows Simon and asks for his picture. Simon bites her and drinks her blood but is thankfully interrupted by Kyle. At the concert, after the incident with Maureen, Simon is confronted by Maia and Isabelle. They are furious at him, as he never told either of them that he was dating both of them. Halfway through the argument, Kyle shows up. Before he can say anything, Maia recognizes and attacks him, only to be stopped by Simon and Isabelle. Maureen is killed when Simon fails to save her. Clary then goes to the Church of Talto and fights a Hydra demon with the help of Isabelle. Later, Jace and Clary share an intimate moment in one of the spare rooms in the Institute. On the point of taking a further step in their relationship, Jace injures Clary with a knife. Clary then offers to take him to the Silent City to get help from the Silent Brothers. The Silent Brothers explain that the nightmares are due to his vulnerability to demonic influence, after Jace was resurrected by the angel Raziel. All Shadowhunters are subject to a ritual to protect them as infants. As Jace died, it was like he had been reborn without the protection. The Brothers want to perform the ritual again to give him the protection. The Silent Brothers make Clary leave. In his cell, Jace realizes that he is having a dream that he is back in Idris. Max appears to Jace and says the dreams mean that Jace is actually hurting Clary. Jace cuts his arms after Max convinces Jace that he will destroy the rotten part of him. Jocelyn and Luke, now engaged, hold an engagement party. Clary disappears after being kidnapped by Jace to which no one else knows about yet. He had lied to Clary about leaving the Silent Brothers early. Jace tells Clary about a rune that binds them to one another forever. Clary accepts and hands him her stele. He begins to draw a rune, but Clary finds out too late that this is not the rune he told her about as she begins to lose consciousness with Jace catching her and carrying her away. Simon also disappears from the party. He is led away from the party by Maureen, now a vampire, and is taken to Lilith, who has been alive since the beginning of time. She explains that she needs him to bring Sebastian back from the dead. When he tells her that he cannot bring the dead back to life, she tells him that he had had that power ever since he became a Daylighter. In order to persuade him to resurrect Sebastian, she had possessed Jace and ordered him to kidnap Clary. Simon reluctantly bites Sebastian and drains some of his blood. When they get to the building, instead of finding Simon, they find the place that Lilith used as her nursery, with all the children dead. Every one of them had clawed hands and black eyes, like that one Clary and her mom saw at the hospital. The babies were the outcome of Lilith trying to make half-demon children like Sebastian. While going through the room, Isabelle discovers a mother of one of the babies, who then explains to them what happened. Meanwhile, Clary tricks Jace by saying she does not wish to watch and he embraces her. Jace tells Clary to run away and believes that she did, but then Lilith reveals that Clary stayed and starts torturing her with a whip. The third time that she goes to hit Clary, Simon kills Lilith by throwing himself between Lilith and Clary, so Lilith hits Simon instead of Clary , inflicting the Mark of Cain on herself. The Clave appears at the scene, and Isabelle

goes downstairs to tell them the story of what happened, while Jace is waiting for them upstairs. Jace and Clary share an intimate moment on the roof. Jace is ashamed of his actions despite literally having no control over himself. Clary tells him that she loves him no matter what happens and the two share a kiss. She then goes down to the lobby to meet her mother, Luke, Simon, Maia, Alec, Magnus, and Isabelle, promising to come back in five minutes.

Chapter 5 : NPR Choice page

'The City of Falling Angels' I had made plans, months before, to come to Venice for a few weeks in the off-season in order to enjoy the city without the crush of other tourists.

Page 4 of 4 Discussion Questions 1. Count Marcello says to Berendt, "What is true? What is not true? The answer is not so simple, because the truth can change. That is the Venice effect" p. How do you see the "Venice effect" at work in this book? Berendt writes, "Venetians seemed to be asking themselves the very questions that I, too, had been wondering about" namely, what it meant to live in so rarefied and unnatural a setting" p. What answers, if any, do you think the author and his subjects come to in the pages of *The City of Falling Angels*? Rose Lauritzen calls Venice a "village with an edge. Mario Moro collects and parades around in uniforms of all types" he has everything from firefighter to naval captain. A local tells Berendt that Mario is just like the Venetian families living in grand palaces and obsessed with nobility, or artists who dream of being the next great Maestro. Identify some of the people in this book who exhibit this type of fantasy and self-delusion. Do you think it is a benign or harmful trait? The families that Berendt encounters in Venice are often fighting vicious internal wars, or recovering from battles past. What are some of the family dramas he relays in *The City of Falling Angels*? Be sure to present both sides of the story! Like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Carnival is an annual celebration that has, in a sense, defined Venice for generations of locals and millions of tourists. Discuss the meaning and execution of Carnival and how it has changed over the centuries. What is the difference between the way the Venetians and the tourists celebrate Carnival? After reading his explanation about the two ancient cults, describe how this dichotomy is still at work in Venice today with regard to politics, social customs, relationships, architecture, and art. Much of *The City of Falling Angels* is devoted to people intricately bound to or exceptionally wrapped up in the past. Several of the "central" figures in this book the Lauritzens, the Curtis family, Olga Rudge, the Rylands are not native Venetians. Do you think any of them are "true Venetians"? Why or why not? With his repeated mentions of both *Wings of the Dove* and *The Aspern Papers*, Berendt returns throughout *The City of Falling Angels* to a theme of "the feigning of love as a means to gain something of value" p. Identify the various situations in the book that illustrate this theme. After seeing a seagull tear out and eat the heart of a pigeon, Ludovico De Luigi tells Berendt, "An allegory: The powerful always win, and the weak always come back to be victims all over again" p. In what ways does this allegory reflect the events of *The City of Falling Angels*? What is it that finally makes Count Volpi participate in Venetian society, if only for one night at the Save Venice ball? What specific aspect of the city most intrigues or repels you? If you have read both books, compare and contrast them. Questions issued by publisher.

Chapter 6 : The City of Falling Angels: www.nxgvision.com: John Berendt: Books

A murder in Savannah inspired John Berendt's previous book, the blockbuster bestseller MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL. This time, the location is Venice, and the inferno which destroyed Venice's beloved opera house, La Fenice, serves as the.

The canals, an environmental chemist tells him, are open sewers. Berendt, in town to compile an anthology of scandal, skulduggery and malfeasance, pretty soon enlists the odour as a metaphor, like the titular angels that tumble from the roof of a foundering church. His Venice is a place of putrescence. Polychrome churches disappear behind a crust of oily grime, and paintings are stealthily blackened by soot. Scavenging birds brawl in the squares: The behaviour of the human residents is little better. They squabble over real estate, engage in deadly feuds about placement at dinner tables, and even burn down their own opera house in return for squalid kickbacks. He even fingers a plebeian grocer, who may he suspects have helped a gay poet to commit suicide in order to get his grubby hands on a legacy. He sets out to investigate the fire that incinerated the Fenice opera house in , and begins by describing the blaze as vividly as if he were a journalistic looker-on. The disaster occurred, however, just before Berendt arrived in Venice. To pass off his sleuthing research as narrative, he has to coax his informants to mouth paragraphs of dreary exposition disguised as cocktail-party chitchat. The Fenice fire was blamed on two dozy electricians, one of whom skipped bail before he could be sent to jail; there are hints about Mafia involvement, but nothing was ever proved, so the outcome remains banal and unsatisfactory. Aware of the anticlimax, Berendt arranges diversions, straying off to sniff out other nasty episodes elsewhere. Yet the dynastic sagas he relates all sound like back-fence tittle-tattle, engrossing to the neighbours and to no one else. Do you really care about the venomous warfare between a pair of American plutocrats who squabble for precedence in a charitable foundation? Venice is an island, and it suffers from a self-enclosed, insular mentality. Despite the privileged secrets imparted to him, he remains a gaping outsider from a younger, cleaner, more gormless continent, who views Venice as a series of movie sets. The paragraph of phoney dialogue summarising the history of the Palazzo Barbaro comes in handy when a crew arrives to film *The Wings of the Dove* in the building where James actually set it. But the ironies of another cinematic anecdote are wasted on Berendt. When the rebuilt Fenice re-opened with an orchestral concert in , the mayor promised that Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons and Joseph Fiennes, cast in a new film of *The Merchant of Venice*, would attend. The trouble was that their Venice had been rigged up on the cheap in Luxembourg; they agreed to be flown in for the evening, but were grounded by fog in the Grand Duchy and never made it. Venice is a false front, like one of those carnival masks now sold in every second shop. Berendt lacks the art to analyse the deceptive fictionality of the place.

Chapter 7 : The City of Falling Angels Summary & Study Guide

Read "The City of Falling Angels" by John Berendt with Rakuten Kobo. Taking the fire that destroyed the Fenice theatre in as his starting point, John Berendt creates a unique and unfor.

The wide-eyed San Francisco socialite and movie-theatre heiress had just returned from a week on the Dalmatian coast. We are not in a pulp novel. We are not even in *Private Eye*. Since it is a book about Venice, and since I wrote one myself many years ago, I feel bound to declare a disinterest - not an un-interest, but a disinterest - lest I be accused of sour grapes in reviewing it. Believe me, the two books are in no way competitive. Half a century divides them, and they approach the subject by totally different routes. *The City of Falling Angels*, is not, to my mind, very likable. It is the record, often presented conversationally in direct reported speech, of a long stay during which Berendt evolved his own specialised responses to Venetian life. He is not much concerned with the architecture or history of the city. He rarely mentions the inside of a church or a street scene, let alone a lagoon sunset. His business is to dig out the dirt - to expose the myriad corruptions, feuds, deceits, ambitions and dynastic resentments which, now as always, fester behind the facades of the Serenissima. First, he arrived in the city just three days after the Fenice Theatre was burnt to the ground in , giving rise to an interminable, unsavoury saga of revelation and recrimination. Second, he found an apartment in the 16th-century palace of Peter and Rose Lauritzen, two of the most intimately informed Anglo-American expatriates in Venice. The Lauritzens were able to direct him down many convoluted historical lanes of inquiry, and they themselves escape unscathed from his talents: But the burning of the Fenice gave him figurative entry into the murkier underworld of the city, and defined from the start what his purposes were to be. It is very soon clear to readers of this volume that if we happen to live in Venice we should be wary of a call from Mr Berendt. Much of the rest of the book is more like gossip, and concerns that most gossipy of subjects, internecine dispute among the rich and the fashionable, the aristocrats and the celebs, the Dodies and the Countess Emos. Berendt is in his element among titles and serious, really serious money - enough to buy monasteries. We learn, for example, that an heir to the premier glass-making family of Murano, the Segusos, tried to get his own father declared mentally incompetent in order to take over the company. We hear how the American Curtis family, residents of Venice since the s, have squabbled over ownership of the magnificent Palazzo Barbaro. And Berendt devotes 35 pages to mayhem within the preposterously snobbish American conservation charities, notably the animosity between Randolph H "Bob" Guthrie president of Save Venice Inc and Lawrence "Larry" Lovett founder of Venetian Heritage and heir to the Piggly Wiggly grocery-chain fortune. It was unfortunate for Berendt that Peggy Guggenheim, that flamboyant millionairess and patron of the arts, died long before his time in Venice. She would have been just his style. However, the museum she founded, in its palace on the Grand Canal, does provide some grist for his mill. The scenario features four characters: Their tale forms a centrepiece to *The City of Falling Angels*, perhaps because the author considers it emblematic of the whole, and it certainly contains all the elements of classic scandal. There is the dead fascist poet who spent much of his life in a lunatic asylum. There are whispers of exploitation, debatable contracts, legal chicanery and missing papers. There is a box not to be opened until I told her I knew nobody at all. She was my only toff! For the seamy side of life is not his only interest, and his technique can be subtle and tantalising. Time and again he leads us gently, amiably, almost soothingly into a topic, only gradually revealing the deceits and swindles that are presently to erupt. But enough is enough. The varied corruptions of Venice certainly deserve a book to themselves - as do its problems of flood control, for instance, or its minor architecture, or its water-buses - and Berendt is a master at exposing hidden truths. But some truths are truer than others, and to my mind the beauty flowing always through the tangled humanity of Venice reduces its squalors to irrelevance. Travels Faber Topics.

Chapter 8 : The City of Falling Angels - Wikipedia

The City of Falling Angels, Berendt's first book sinceMidnight, is the same unique brand of literary nonfiction that made

him a household name. Like Midnight, Falling Angels is a masterpiece of journalism, storytelling, and social insight, doing for Venice what Midnight did for Savannah, Georgia.

Chapter 9 : The City of Falling Angels by John Berendt

The City of Falling Angels, is not, to my mind, very likable. It is the record, often presented conversationally in direct reported speech, of a long stay during which Berendt evolved his own.