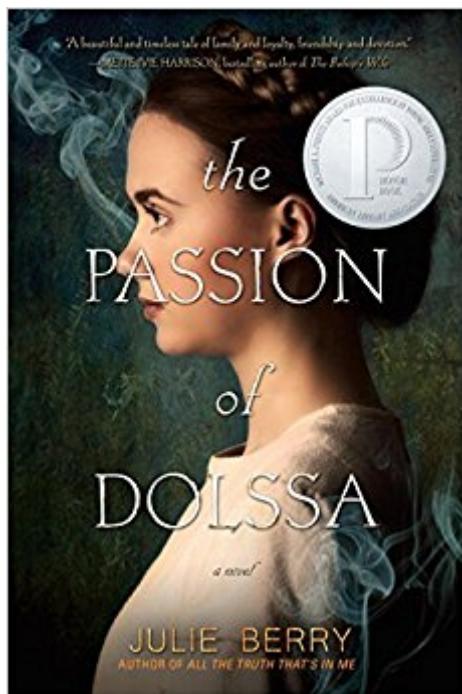


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The Passion Of Dolssa



Synopsis

The Printz Honor winner that garnered five starred reviews and was hailed by the New York Times as "magnificent"! Dolssa is an upper-crust city girl who's been branded a heretic, on the run from the friar who condemned her mother to death by fire and wants Dolssa executed, too. Botille is a matchmaker and a tavern-keeper, struggling to keep herself and her sisters on the right side of the law in their seaside town. When their lives collide by a dark riverside, Botille rescues a dying Dolssa and conceals her in the tavern, where an unlikely friendship blooms. Aided by her sisters and Symo, her surly but loyal neighbor, Botille nurses Dolssa back to health and hides her from her pursuers. But all of Botille's tricks, tales, and cleverness can't protect them forever, and when the full wrath of the Church bears down upon them, Dolssa's passion and Botille's good intentions could destroy the entire village. From the author of the critically acclaimed and award-winning All the Truth That's in Me comes a spellbinding thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the final page and make you wonder if miracles really are possible.

Book Information

Hardcover: 496 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 74 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #55,053 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval #42 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical #43 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Europe

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Botille is a matchmaker in the small seaside town of Bajas in medieval France. She struggles to run the family's tavern and keep her sisters and herself afloat. Dolssa is a young woman with a secret that she can't help but share-her lover is God, and she speaks to him regularly. When the two young women cross paths, both deep friendship and mortal peril await them. A beautifully rendered portrait of a little-known portion of history, this work is a meticulously researched piece of fiction. Yet it is not just in the accurate details that the novel shines. The

strength and humanity of the almost entirely female set of characters are inspiring and well drawn. The panic and suspicion of post-Inquisition France is omnipresent, giving the story of a supposed heretic a constant edge of danger. As the novel slips in and out of magical realism, readers will be transported into Dolssa and Botille's world. VERDICT An expertly crafted piece of historical fiction, Berry's latest is a must for middle and high school libraries.-Erinn Black Salge, Saint Peter's Prep, Jersey City, NJ (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

PRAISE FOR *The Passion of Dolssa*: "Irresistibly compellingâ [Berry conveys] complex historical and religious matters fluently and accessibly for todayâ 's readers." --Starred Review, *A Horn Book* "Berry again delivers an utterly original and instantly engrossing story [...] she weaves a tense, moving portrait of these two teenage girls and their struggle to survive against insurmountable odds." --Starred Review, *A Publishers Weekly* "Readers will be transported into Dolssa and Botilleâ 's world. An expertly crafted piece of historical fiction." --Starred Review, *A School Library Journal* "A skillfully crafted and tenderly told story of faith and friendship tested." --Starred Review, *A BCCB* "This beautifully crafted plot would be enough on its own, but Berry does so much more . . . despite the bookâ 's gravity, Berry also manages to infuse her story with laughter and light." --Starred Review, *A Booklist*

I read so many books that it's hard for me to remember them unless they're excellent. Also, taste is so subjective that I usually don't write reviews on them. This book is excellent and I want everyone to know. I read it through my library quite awhile ago and have not been able to forget it. So happy it's on special deal for the ebook. I recommended it my librarian and she loved it too. We are both decades past the so called target audience, but this book is just so good!! Seriously, buy it. You won't be sorry.

The idea of religious inquisition is probably pretty foreign to most of us. The idea that people would give over their neighbors and friends to avoid persecution comes to life in this novel, based on real stories. It is a timely idea and well executed here. Pre-marital sex and prostitution are mentioned but without graphic portrayal. They are described as a realistic, historical fact. More fictional is the mystic powers of the women, presented as the testimony of various interviewees. I read and listened to this book and the audio version is also quite lovely. The reader's voice is pleasant and it is useful to hear some of the non-English words pronounced..

Great book, interesting history and story. Hard to put down. Our book club got to skype with the author, so much fun and learned so much. Great read, clean for teens too.

I really liked this book. I've been on a historical fiction kick lately and thought that this book wove in the history of the times of the Inquisition while also making an interesting storyline. My heart broke for the family in this story and how it all turned out. I couldn't put it down!

Wonderful book. I couldn't stop reading it. This is a story that takes the reader into a very dark time in history, but is very relevant to the current world. Loved the characters. Never a boring moment. This book would be of particular interest to the spiritually inclined.

So well written and filled with both the beauty and darkness that is humanity. This is a book that inspires

I read this well researched novel in a constant state of wonderment. What is going to happen and what is its implications. After finishing the book, I am now going to read more about female mystics in the middle ages.

I tend to avoid religion-based novels because authors often subtlety (or not so subtlety) attempt to sway the reader into believing in God. Berry, however, does a great job establishing the historical backdrop of the story and conveying the importance of religion in that historical context without impressing her own beliefs. Indeed, the crux of the story is the bond of sisterhood between Dolssa and Botille, which I found to be heartrending and tragic. The novel does not provide a happy ending and for that, I found the story to be more realistic.

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