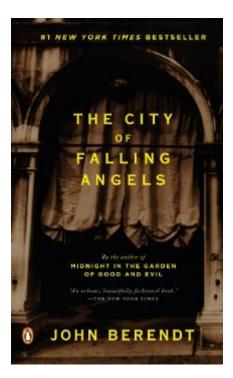
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# **The City Of Falling Angels**





## Synopsis

Twelve years ago, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil exploded into a monumental success, residing a record-breaking four years on the New York Times bestseller list (longer than any work of fiction or nonfiction had before) and turning John Berendt into a household name. 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 1996 destroyed the historic Fenice opera house. Encountering a rich cast of characters, Berendt tells a tale full of atmosphere and surprise as the stories build, one after the other, ultimately coming together to portray a world as finely drawn as a still-life painting.

### **Book Information**

File Size: 901 KB Print Length: 444 pages Publisher: Penguin Books (September 26, 2006) Publication Date: September 26, 2006 Sold by:Â Penguin Group (USA) LLC Language: English ASIN: B000SEFKJY Text-to-Speech: Enabled X-Ray: Not Enabled Word Wise: Enabled Lending: Not Enabled Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled Best Sellers Rank: #52,970 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Europe > Italy > Venice #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Italy #31 in Books > History > Europe > Italy

#### **Customer Reviews**

It seems like whenever there's a good book about a place, we're told "It's so good it makes you want to go there." John Berendt's first book, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" apparently did that for Savannah. But in the case of "The City of Falling Angels", I felt that even if I went to Venice a hundred times, I'd never get the kinds of insights I got from reading this book. Just the way Venice is so unlike any other place -- a tiny, canal-filled, floating museum of a city that once was actually a world power -- I learned that its inhabitants, perhaps inevitably, are equally unlike those of

any other place. Nowhere but in Venice could I find Massimo Donadon, a "chef" who cornered a whopping 30% of the world's rat poison market by studying different countries' food preferences -- and then making his rat poison taste like those foods, since that's what local rats grow to like after they eat a place's garbage. (Butter for France, pork fat for Germany, curry for India.) And apparently no one but Berendt ever discovered the entertaining, carnivalistic characters like him (and many, many others) -- even though several literary giants, such as Henry James, Thomas Mann, and Ernest Hemingway had their chances. And there's virtually nothing in "Angels" that you can find in any book of its kind. Or any book, period. "Angels also has its "serious" side. It meticulously investigates the 1996 fire (accident or arson?) of one of history's most renowned opera houses. And while doing this, it gives us a basic cultural and political portrait of probably the world's most unusual city. It's obviously tempting to compare "Angels" to "Midnight" -- since it's also about a city, and "Midnight" was such a record-breaking hit.

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