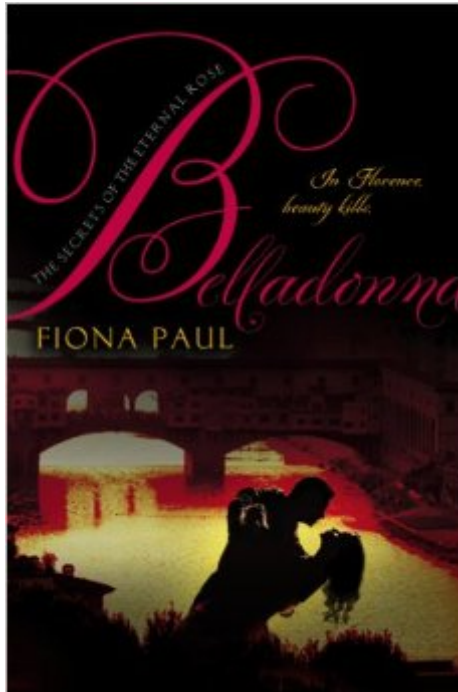


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Belladonna (Secrets Of The Eternal Rose)



Synopsis

When nothing is as it seems, the truth may be the deadliest poison of all. A CHARMING BUT WILD ARTIST ran off with her heart. HER STRONG, STEADY FIANCÉ appears to be keeping secrets. ARRESTED IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, her fiancé is imprisoned on false charges. To free him Cass must journey to Florence, a city haunted by rumors, secret soirees, clandestine meetings, and home to the eerily stunning leader of the Order of the Eternal Rose, the Belladonna herself. Cass can prove Luca's innocence, but can she trust her heart to lead her to the truth? DANGEROUS, SEDUCTIVE AND ALLURING this edge-of-your-seat romantic thriller will leave readers wondering not only whom Cass will choose "Luca or Falco" but whether or not all three of them will survive. This breathtaking sequel to *Venom* is perfect for fans of Philippa Gregory's *The Other Boleyn Girl*, Anna Godbersen's *The Luxe*, Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty* and Cecily Von Ziegesar's *Gossip Girl*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog
Belladonna by Fiona Paul
Book Two of the Secrets of the Eternal Rose series
Publisher: Philomel
Publication Date: July 16, 2013
Rating: 4 stars
Source: ARC sent by Paper Lit Lantern
Summary (from Goodreads):
In the second in the stunning Secrets of the Eternal Rose series, Cassandra Caravello is trying to forget Falco, the wild artist who ran off with her heart, as she grows closer to her strong, steady fiancé, Luca. But Luca seems to have his own secrets. When he's arrested by soldiers in the middle of the night, Cass's life is once again

thrown into chaos. She must save Luca, and that means finding the Book of the Eternal Rose--the only evidence that will prove he's innocent. So begins her journey to Florence, a city haunted by whispers of vampirism, secret soirees and clandestine meetings of the Order of the Eternal Rose. And home to Falco, who is working for the Order's eerily stunning leader, the Belladonna herself. Can Cass trust her heart to lead her to the truth this time? Nothing is as it seems in this seductive thriller, where the truth may be the deadliest poison of all.

What I Liked: You all know I didn't like *Venom* as much as I'd hoped. I gave it three stars - but at the time, I wasn't sure if the rating was truly representative of how I felt. I absolutely LOVE historical fiction - it's my second favorite genre - and I love history. So, it sort of hurt to be disappointed by a much anticipated historical fiction novel. Nevertheless, I found *Belladonna* much more to my liking. Not only was *Belladonna* better in comparison to *Venom*, but it was just an all-around good book! I really enjoyed it!

Even though I hadn't read the first book in the series, I could understand what was going on. The book was okay, with some things I didn't like.

Likes: I didn't read the first book. Yes, it's true. I decided to jump in without any prior knowledge. But, oddly enough, the author wrote the book with people like me in mind. I could understand the second book without reading the first. It was very interesting. I didn't know who Falco was or what happened to him, but I could get the gist of what I needed to know. Which is something I liked. I know people who read book one would be annoyed with the repeat information from book one, but it really helped me. The tension was really thick. I was on the edge of my seat every time. What does the Order of the Eternal Rose do? Who is the leader? What will happen next? The author wielded tension like a sword, forcing to turn page after digital page. Bravo.

Dislikes: Falco was super annoying. I really hated his guts. He might have been Mr. Suavey-Suave in book one, but he was Mr. Shut-Up in book two. I couldn't stand him. He was cocky and obnoxious. Love interest? How about no? It was like he was trying way too hard. I couldn't stand it. I just wanted to punch him. You're not my type, nor do I think you're anyone's type. Sorry not sorry. The plot was very dull until the very end. Roaming around Venice trying to find answers is a boring scene. But double that and move locations? Even more so. I thought that the plot only got interesting at the very end when the main character returns to Venice to save Luca. That was when things got interesting. I felt like the book was trying too hard to be supernatural. Either that or too religious. For me, I'm not a huge fan of the latter.

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