



Pagan Light: Dreams of Freedom and Beauty in Capri

Jamie James

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"Pagan Light is mesmerizing. Every detail is compelling. I felt I was reading a family history of a family far more interesting than mine." --Edmund White, author of *Our Young Man*

A rich, intimate embrace of Capri, which was a magnet for artistic renegades and a place of erotic refuge

Isolated and arrestingly beautiful, the island of Capri has been a refuge for renegade artists and writers fleeing the strictures of conventional society from the time of Augustus, who bought the island in 29 BC after defeating Antony and Cleopatra, to the early twentieth century, when the poet and novelist Jacques d'Adelsw?rd-Fersen was in exile there after being charged with corrupting minors, to the 1960s, when Truman Capote spent time on the island. We also meet the Marquis de Sade, Goethe, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Compton Mackenzie, Rilke, Lenin, and Gorky, among other astonishingly vivid characters.

Grounded in a deep intimacy with Capri and full of captivating anecdotes, Jamie James's *Pagan Light* tells how a tiny island served as a wildly permissive haven for people--queer, criminal, sick, marginalized, and simply crazy--who had nowhere else to go.

Pagan Light: Dreams of Freedom and Beauty in Capri Details

Date : Published March 19th 2019 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

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From Reader Review Pagan Light: Dreams of Freedom and Beauty in Capri for online ebook

Rebecca says

This sounded really interesting but I just couldn't get in to it. It was a long, hard slog. It is a history book but it just didn't grab me.

I also thought there would be mentions of witches because of the title. I like the cover but that is all.

If I hadn't received a review copy then I wouldn't have finished it.

I'm sure that if you have a stronger interest in the history of homosexuality with young boys or the quirky patrons of Capri through time then you would rate it more highly.

Annarella says

I requested this book because I fell in love with Capri and was happy to see a book about this wonderful place.

The book is amazing, well written and engaging.

You meet a lot of the historical characters who lived there when it was a paradise for people who were outcasted for political or sexual reasons.

The pagan word in the title refers to the atmosphere that is on the island has no religious meaning.

It's an amazing well researched trip that makes you crave for going there.

I look forward to reading other books by this writer.

Highly recommended!

Many thanks to Farrar, Straus and Giroux and Netgalley for this ARC

Desiree says

I requested an advanced reader copy of Jamie James' Pagan Light because I liked the cover and because the idea of a literary study about this beautiful island sounded very interesting.

I am a regular visitor of Italy and have had the pleasure of visiting Capri in the past. I guess I expected more of an interesting travelogue about Capri and it's past.

Well, this book for me proved that there is truth in the expression that you shouldn't judge a book by it's cover.

The colourful cover and the description had raised expectations which were not met while reading the book.

To start with the positive elements in the book I think that the author writes well and did an excellent job in research.

Despite this, I found almost all the story's about the people who stayed on Capri rather tedious and I think there was far to much emphasis on the homosexual visitor's of Capri. I can not believe that there haven't been heterosexual visitor's to Capri who were just as interesting.

Furthermore I found the book had no clear storyline and it just meandered from one anecdote to another.

Maybe the book is more interesting if you have a special interest in some of the people described in the book.

I had great difficulty finishing the book because it just didn't hold my interest.

I want to thank Netgalley for giving me a review copy of this book for an honest review
