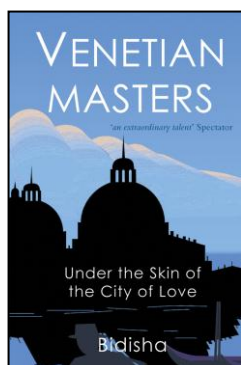


## ● Summersdale New Book Release ●

Here is the *real* Venice – the Venice that very few visitors get to see.  
This is an extraordinary travelogue from an extraordinary young woman.



# Venetian Masters

## Under the Skin of the City of Love

by  
**Bidisha**

**CATEGORY: Travel Writing/Non-fiction:**  
**ISBN: 978 1 08024 634 6 Paperback 320 pages £7.99 February 2008**

*'Where are you going now?' I ask Ginerva.*

*'I will accompany you home and then go to my home for dinner.'*

*'Doesn't that mean you have to come all the way up, then go all the way back down?'*

*'I don't mind. I would rather be the servant than the master,' she jokes.*

The sinking city has been mythologised in history, art, literature and music for centuries, but very few people experience the *real* Venice.

During one long, humid summer, Bidisha explores the truth of the revered City of Love. Guided through its intricate social conventions by her best friend's family, who reside at one of the most famous *palazzo* on the Canal Grande, she learns valuable lessons about the 'Italian Way' but glimpses disturbing prejudices beneath the sophisticated surface.

*'You must remember that this is a small town and the people who live here have a small town mentality. They don't like outsiders, especially tourists,' says Stefania.*

With wit and elegance, Bidisha described rubbing shoulders with the social elite at glamorous parties and sampling the exquisite delights of her favourite *pasticceria*, and takes us along on her daily runs through the winding, mysterious back-streets.



**About Bidisha:** Bidisha is a regular contributor to *Newsnight Review* (BBC 2), *Front Row* (BBC Radio 4) and *Saturday Review* (BBC Radio 4) as well as guest presenting for The BBC World Service books show, *The Word*, *Desi DNA* for BBC 2 and other TV and radio assignments. She is also a regular contributor to *The Guardian* and *The Observer*.

Bidisha was born in London in 1978 and began her remarkable career at the age of fifteen, writing for a number of arts and current affairs magazines. She signed her first book deal with HarperCollins when she was only sixteen. She is the author of two highly-acclaimed novels: *Seahorses* (Harper Collins, 1997) and *Too Fast To Live* (Duckworth, 2000). By her early twenties she was a regular contributor to a number of national newspapers and magazines. Bidisha was educated at Oxford University (specialising in Old and Medieval Literature) and The London

School of Economics (specialising in Moral and Political Philosophy). From 2000 to 2002 she was an arts reviewer and current affairs commentator for a number of TV and radio programmes and the publisher of the award-winning style publication, *The Stealth Corporation*. From 2003 – 2004 Bidisha was a Senior Lecturer in Political Theory and Ethics at The London College, before moving to Venice for a year. **(More information about Bidisha is available on request)**

**Praise for Bidisha's novels:** "one of this year's most promising writers." *The Times* ● "A thrilling writer... exhilarating" *Sunday Tribune* ● "extraordinary talent" *The Spectator* ● "both anarchic and ingenious." *Sunday Express* ● "an entertaining disregard for tradition..." *The Times Literary Supplement* ● "Bidisha's writing has a biting ferocity and honesty that is rare these days." *The Face* ● "Bidisha is clearly a dazzlingly creative writer. Every page has astounding phrases... I doubt this is the last the publishing world will hear of Bidisha. Keep an eye out for the next one." *Metro*

**VENETIAN MASTERS Under the Skin of the City of Love** is published by Summersdale and available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Summersdale.

**To request a review copy, an author biography and/or to request an interview with Bidisha**, please contact Elly Donovan on: 01243 771107 or email [elly@summersdale.com](mailto:elly@summersdale.com)



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