

## Venice Pure City

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Venice was a city of transit, where you might easily be lost among the press, a city on the frontier between different worlds, where those who did not "fit in" to their native habitat were graciously accepted.

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Venice is in that sense the purest city of all. It is invariably associated with dream. Henry James described his sojourn in Venice as a "beautiful dream." "Venice," he wrote, "is quite the Venice of one's dreams, but it remains strangely the Venice of dreams, more than of any appreciable reality."

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Venice: Pure City presents a thickly mythologized city of metaphors,reading the city as a vast semiotic network of mirrors, waters, stones, lions,bells, boats, and masks. At times this method succeeds, as when Ackroyd pointsout that the famous stones of Venice are made of limestone quarried in Istria,which "comes from the action of the sea, made up by the unimaginablecompound of billions of marine creatures."

**Venice: Pure City - The Barnes & Noble Review**  
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**Venice : Pure City by Peter Ackroyd (2010, Hardcover) for ...**  
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Venice in the ninth and tenth centuries was a medieval city, where pigs roamed about the streets and where pastures and gardens interrupted the vista of houses and churches. There were districts with the epithet "In the Marsh" or "In the Wilderness" or "In the Seaweed."

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Venice was itself a city of miracles. No city in Europe, with the possible exception of Rome, has witnessed so many. The survival of Venice itself, on the waters, was deemed to be a miracle.

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Venice: Pure City. Knopf. ISBN 978-0-385-53153-5. Joanne M. Ferraro (2012). Venice: History of the Floating City. Cambridge University Press.