



The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)

By Paulo Coelho

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How do we find the courage to always be true to ourselves—even if we are unsure of who we are?

That is the central question of international bestselling author Paulo Coelho's profound new work, *The Witch of Portobello*. It is the story of a mysterious woman named Athena, told by the many who knew her well—or hardly at all. Like *The Alchemist*, *The Witch of Portobello* is the kind of story that will transform the way readers think about love, passion, joy, and sacrifice.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Multimillion-seller Coelho (*The Devil and Miss Prym*, etc.) returns with another uncanny fusion of philosophy, religious miracle and moral parable. The Portobello of the title is London's Portobello Road, where Sherine Khalil, aka Athena, finds the worship meeting she's leading—where she becomes an omniscient goddess named Hagia Sophia—disrupted by a Protestant protest. Framed as a set of interviews conducted with those who knew Athena, who is dead as the book opens, the story recounts her birth in Transylvania to a Gypsy mother, her adoption by wealthy Lebanese Christians; her short, early marriage to a man she meets at a London college (one of the interviewees); her son Viorel's birth; and her stint selling real estate in Dubai. Back in London in the book's second half, Athena learns to harness the powers that have been present but inchoate within her, and the story picks up as she acquires a "teacher" (Deidre O'Neill, aka Edda, another interviewee), then disciples (also interviewed), and speeds toward a spectacular end. Coelho veers between his signature criticism of modern life and the hydra-headed alternative that Athena taps into. Athena's earliest years don't end up having much plot, but the second half's intrigue sustains the book. (*May*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Best-selling fabulist Coelho continues to transform his trademark combination of mysticism and storytelling into spellbinding examinations of the human soul. In this deceptively simple novel, a bereaved lover attempts to chronicle, dissect, and comprehend the often-twisted path followed by Athena, otherwise known as the Witch of Portobello Road. An orphaned Romanian gypsy, adopted as an infant by adoring Lebanese parents, Athena recognized and struggled with the power of her magical gifts at an early age. Spurred on by truths and passions inaccessible to most of her contemporaries, she traipsed around Europe and the Middle East in search of acceptance, enlightenment, and a truer path. Developing a cultlike following, she became the object of a modern-day witch hunt that seemingly culminated in tragedy. Unable to construct a typically straightforward chronicle of her life, her would-be biographer relies on the divergent recollections and reflections of the people who knew—or thought they knew—her best. Narrated from multiple points of view, the portrait of Athena that emerges is as provocative and spiritually complex as one would expect from the author of *The Alchemist* (1993) and *The Devil and Miss Prym* (2006). *Margaret Flanagan*
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Review

Praise for the *Witch of Portobello*: 'Filled with Coelho's recurring themes - spirituality, destiny, freedom - this is a riveting and inspiring read.' *Belfast Telegraph* 'Paulo Coelho successfully defines the undefinable and possesses the skill to handle the abstract without being too confusing or vague.' *Irish Mail on Sunday* Praise for Paulo Coelho: 'An exceptional writer.' *USA Today* 'His books have had a life-enhancing impact on millions of people.' *Times* 'One of the few to deserve the term "Publishing Phenomenon".' *Independent on Sunday* 'Coelho's writing is beautifully poetic but his message is what counts...he gives me hope and puts a smile on my face.' *Daily Express*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Lapham:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each guide has different aim as well as goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they get because their hobby will be reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will want this *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)*.

Barbara Simon:

This *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)* book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)* without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't become worry *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)* can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)* having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Anne Shivers:

The reason? Because this *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Quentin Taylor:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *The Witch of Portobello: A Novel (P.S.)*, you are able to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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