



The Passionate Eye: The Collected Writing of Suzanne Vega

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An internationally respected composer and performer, Suzanne Vega does not write love songs, per se. Her words can rattle and sting, exposing private crimes and inner wars, the pain of need, and the chains of unspoken law. With evocative image and clear-sighted truth she transforms experience into dark and beautiful art. She is a poet of the urban streets whose passionate eye catches the motion and vibrant color of the life that surrounds us all. In this volume are collected the writings of Suzanne Vega, poems and stories, remembrances of times past and far countries, interviews and song lyrics, overheard conversations and imagined thoughts, complex inner worlds realized in simple yet breathtaking strokes. And through her words a portrait emerges of an exemplary artist and unique individual whose passion embraces the entire scope of human existence, from love and longing to war and politics. It is a window into a guarded life, and a remarkable journey across an emotional landscape sometimes hard, often cruel, but never barren or devoid of hope.

The Passionate Eye: The Collected Writing of Suzanne Vega Details

Date : Published February 9th 1999 by Spike (first published 1999)

ISBN : 9780380973538

Author : Suzanne Vega

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Poetry, Music, Short Stories, Biography, Writing, Essays, Anthologies



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Cedarlakeinn says

I LOVE this book. Suzanne Vega is one of my favorite artists. This book is a collection of lyrics she has written. Most of these songs she has recorded. There are even autobiographical sections in between.

Diana Bogan says

The collection didn't blow me away or move me like I hoped it would. If you read between the lines you can gather an image of what her life has been growing up into adulthood. I think the most revealing part was the transcript of the interview conducted by Leonard Cohen. In it she talks about letting her work (words) stand for itself and to know the specifics of what inspiration she drew upon to write those songs/poems or passages is crossing a line. I also enjoyed her journal entry regarding a photo shoot with David Bailey involving several women musicians. It was humorous to follow her train of thought as she's eyeing up the other women and being exposed to the camera herself. Overall the book was mildly amusing. I think I'm moved more by hearing her voice sing her prose versus reading it.

Mara says

Fans of Suzanne Vega will find lyrics to many of her songs in this collection, and will also enjoy reading some of her poetry and other writings. I found it particularly interesting to see how, with slight changes to the language, a theme from a poem or story got worked into a song that I knew well.

Amy says

This is a lovely volume of song lyrics, musings, and stories by Vega. If you are a fan of her music, you will certainly enjoy this book.

K.S. Thompson says

The conversation between Suzanne Vega and Leonard Cohen alone is worth investing in this book. I have long been a fan of her music and it's lovely to see some of her very early work, written when she was a teenager. It's not really something one finishes in a single sitting, but rather a book to revisit from time to time, to remind you of something you fear forgetting.

Ilana Waters says

Not only was I blown away by these poems (and the other works included), but what's truly incredible is how YOUNG the author was when she began writing them! I think a few are even from when she was 15! Not surprising from such a great artist, and someone whose lyrics I've always admired. So do yourself a favor, and fall into this impressive volume--like I did :-)

Elaine Copeland says

Suzanne Vega reveals her journey and insights worth sifting with access to her personal journals and poetry that eventually evolved into her succinct lyrics. Origins of Rock in Pocket, Luca, and Tom's Diner are revealed by her clever and quiet shares. And, as an added bonus, we learn of her the first hand account and dialog with her dear friend, Leonard Cohen. It's an easy read, well worth the trip.

John says

good instrospective to her body of work

Clare Bear says

She's been telling stories and making great music for decades. I love her lyrics, and I can't wait to read her prose and verse.

Kyra Leseberg (Roots & Reads) says

Beautiful collection of poems, lyrics, and stories.

Daniel says

Suzanne Vega is a true poet. The Leonard Cohen interview is just wonderful. I hope she's planning on releasing more collections like this in the future.
