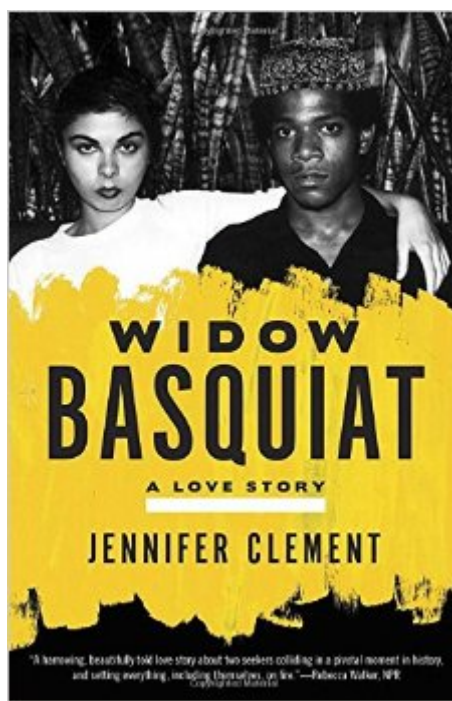


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# Widow Basquiat: A Love Story



## Synopsis

The beautifully written, deeply affecting story of Jean-Michel Basquiat's partner, her past, and their life together New York City in the 1980s was a mesmerizing, wild place. A hotbed for hip hop, underground culture, and unmatched creative energy, it spawned some of the most significant art of the 20th century. It was where Jean-Michel Basquiat became an avant-garde street artist and painter, swiftly achieving worldwide fame. During the years before his death at the age of 27, he shared his life with his lover and muse, Suzanne Mallouk. A runaway from an unhappy home in Canada, Suzanne first met Jean-Michel in a bar on the Lower East Side in 1980. Thus began a tumultuous and passionate relationship that deeply influenced one of the most exceptional artists of our time. In emotionally resonant prose, award-winning author Jennifer Clement tells the story of the passion that swept Suzanne and Jean-Michel into a short-lived, unforgettable affair. A poetic interpretation like no other, *Widow Basquiat* is an expression of the unrelenting power of addiction, obsession and love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I read this book I could not put it down...I had always been a fan of Jean Michel Basquiat's work and so was very curious to read this book. This book was absolutely beautifully written. It has a very poetic, surreal, childlike quality to it...the style it is written in resembles the style the artist painted in...It is clear that this author was intimately acquainted with both Jean Michael and Suzanne. This book is far from a journalistic accounting of the story...it is about the feelings, the

smells, the tastes....this book is a sensory account of the time...it takes the reader back there...it is amazingly moving. Bravo to Jennifer Clement. I am sure to hear more of her very soon. She is a brilliant writer.

Unlike the popular movie "Basquiat" and other convoluted accountings of the artist's life, this book is a part of the "real deal" of what went down --- written by the author with the help of Basquiat's girlfriend of the time --two figures who were really there and in the artist's life well before he was ever heard of or given any serious attention by the likes of Warhol or anyone else with a famous name. This book is free of the hype and distortion that has sadly compromised other descriptions of what really went down. The book also depicts some of the rawness and flavor of what was happening in the East Village/Lower East Side during that time period. The book is written in a poetically hypnotic style utilizing a structure of short passages for easy reading. Hard to put it down once started. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!

"Widow Basquiat: A Love Story" by Jennifer Clement is a hypnotic collection of memories in haunting prose and poetry. I was able to discover who Suzanne Mallouk, Jean-Michel Basquiat's lover and muse is, and a look at Basquiat as only Suzanne could provide for us. I was also provided with a view of the other people in the lives of Suzanne and Jean-Michel. What we get are little snapshots of the Widow Basquiat's life from before they met until after his death. The snapshots give us just enough to understand both Suzanne and Jean-Michel as well as their relationship and their love. Basquiat's art is a powerful testament to his creative genius and to the bridge Suzanne created between the artist's vision and his hands. As an artist, I understand the strange, unique, and the creative mind of Jean-Michel. I can sympathize with Suzanne's emotional struggle with him. Being in a relationship with an artist is not the easiest kind of person to love, or stay with. With new art always erupting in the artist's brains to look at, how can the creative one always see everything going on in the real world too? Suzanne was not only Basquiat's muse, she was the key to his creative evolution. This is a short book but immense with the love Suzanne still has for Jean-Michel. A special book for those who hold a fondness for the magic of Basquiat's life and work who want to know more about the woman who stayed with him, even when they were apart. The movie "Basquiat" is a movie based on a life. "Widow Basquiat" is real.

knowing the parties involved. i was deeply touched and moved by this love story and psychological mining of its subjects. this is an invaluable insight to the back story behind an incredibly important

artist living through a period of New York City history while honestly addressing the drugs that were so much a part of driving production of so many artists at the time. Basquiat was no exception to this and certainly not alone.

Unlike other books about Basquiat, this story, *Widow Basquiat*, is about Suzanne Mallouk and her stormy relationship with the young artist. This is a sparsely written, almost poetic view of a relationship between two people, one of which was deemed a talented artist, and the other was known as his muse. This book also captures the underground culture of New York in the 1980s with vivid scenes of the drugs, parties, creative energy and lives lived on the edge. This story is a harrowing story of a young girl who leaves an abusive household to go live in New York where she meets Jean-Michel and endures the highs and lows of living with an artist and drug addict. At times, Jean-Michel can't live with Suzanne but can't live without her. Jean-Michel comes across as childlike at times, a raving madman at others, but all in all, the driving force of his life was his art. He would leave her for days at a time and take up with other people and he always had a steady supply of drugs which he shared profusely with her. There are other colorful characters in this book, as well as the notoriously famous, such as Madonna and Andy Warhol who also had close relationships with Basquiat. Suzanne shows a great strength in character in this sparse book, but ultimately this is a sad tale of her relationship with a talented and famous black artist who found fame and notoriety far beyond his days of a SOMA street artist.

I bought this book for my husband, and he really enjoyed it. At first, the unusual writing style bothered him, but by 50 pages in, he'd become used to it. He has always been a huge fan of Basquiat's art, but knew little about him as a person. So, he was very disturbed by many of the revelations in this book about Basquiat's true character. For a man who is very respectful of women, the book was almost too much. But ultimately, he came out with a greater understanding of the artist and the art. My husband is a successful artist, so it meant a lot to him to see how Basquiat operated during his depressingly short life. I have not read the book, because honestly the writing style puts me off also. But for a unique look into the artist's tragic life, this book is priceless. And Suzanne's story is one of a woman who really beat the odds. Overall, this book comes highly recommended by Mr. Willis.

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