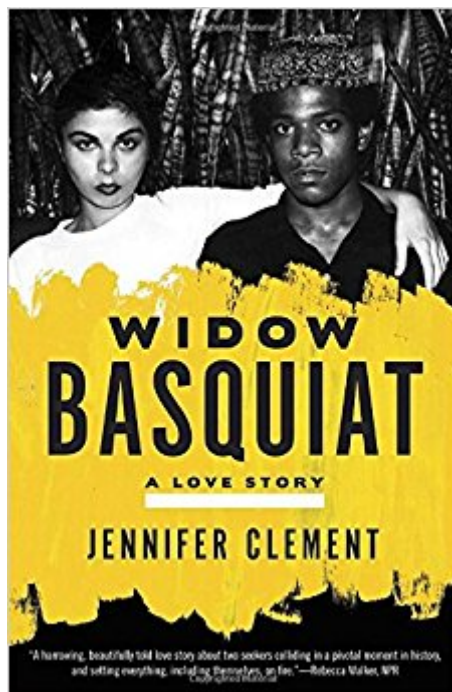


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# Widow Basquiat: A Love Story



## 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

An NPR Best Book of the Year Selection – “Stunningly lyrical . . . Original, insightful, and engrossing. . . . While filled with pop culture anecdotes art fans might seek – Andy Warhol and Rene Ricard both make appearances, for instance – Clement’s account is an honest love story above all else. – Publishers Weekly – “Sublime, poetic – [Clement] chronicles her close friend Suzanne Mallouk’s love affair with

Basquiat in elegant, spare, riveting prose. A powerful female coming of age story. A harrowing, beautifully told love story about two seekers colliding in a pivotal moment in history, and setting everything, including themselves, on fire. •Rebecca Walker for NPR "Magical. Widow Basquiat conjures real characters, a real time and real place. It's not theory or representation. The life of Basquiat is a joyous lightning bolt when it is described in true detail, as it is in Clement's extraordinary as-told-to poem." •Glenn O'Brien, Artforum "Provocative... With short, episodic chapters, Clement (Prayers for the Stolen, 2014, etc.) delivers real insight into the life of the brilliant artist as well as the glittering but ultimately chaotic world that consumed him... Disturbing and poetic." •Kirkus "A beautifully evocative, poetic memoir ... Basquiat was aware of the criteria with which posterity would judge him. Widow Basquiat should be part of those criteria." -The Herald "An engrossing narrative... Clement offers far more clues to the cryptic symbols which litter his [Basquiat's] paintings than any art critic could." -The Times "A brilliant account of the relationship between Basquiat and his muse and lover ... a compelling book that leaves a giant sized lump in the throat ... Clement hypnotises us with a vivid portrait of Basquiat, powerfully evoking his inventiveness as an artist." -Independent on Sunday

Jennifer Clement studied literature in New York and Paris. She was awarded the NEA Fellowship for Literature and the Sara Curry Humanitarian Award for her most recent novel, Prayers for the Stolen. Formerly president of PEN Mexico, she currently lives in Mexico City.

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.

One of the best books that I have ever read beautifully written poetic will be looking for more from

this author! Basquiats girlfriend is a very interesting and had a historically unique perspective

After viewing the Jean-Michel Basquiat's documentary film, *The Radiant Child* and viewing the motion picture based on his life, *Basquiat I* became instantly drawn to Basquiat's life story and his work. I bought this book for more insight on the man and the artist. This book is a quick read and it really does a great job in providing snapshots into the life of one of the greatest, most innovative visual artists to ever live. Whether you are conducting research on Basquiat or just want to know more about him, this book is a must-read. It is kooky, cerebral, tragic, melancholy, funny, and most of all poignant.

It's been a while since I picked up a book I couldn't put down. This was definitely one of them. It's short, but leaves you with a feeling as if you were there. You know those books that make you feel like you are in a cloud of something else for a short while? The ones that leave you thinking about things when you are done with them? This is one of those. I could imagine myself right along side. it is very well written and a joy to read. I loved it and so did my daughter.

Loved this little book. Beautifully written and provided a great image of Basquiat's life through his girlfriend's experience. I became a huge fan of him after reading this. Jennifer Clement, a poet, writes beautiful, poetic prose.

A quick and interesting walk through the inside of the art club scene of the 80's as depicted through the love affair of Basquiat and Suzanne things we have heard before and others we have not. I'm always fascinated by the inner stories of this time as I lived through them myself in LA. Poetic. Memories of what it is to be young to live free and to create and those that live through it and those that die by it. It was a fast and enjoyable ride.

It really doesn't go into any depth but it gives a sketchy picture of the artist and his "wife". It's a quick and easy read. Anyway, the interesting part in this relationship is the so called widow who managed to get out of the inferno of drugs and loveless relationships, study and become her own independent personality. I would like to read more about this obviously very intelligent woman.

Art-love-drugs-broken lives. Very inspiring story of genius and his tragedy spoken by his widow. Strongly recommended for those who are interested in art culture

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