



SALLEY VICKERS

"A jewel of a novel...
Brilliant and beautiful."
—*San Francisco Chronicle*

MISS
GARNET'S
ANGEL

A NOVEL

Miss Garnet's Angel by Salley Vickers

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After the dying of her longtime pal and flatmate, retired British heritage instructor Julia Garnet does whatever thoroughly out of character: She takes a six-month apartment on a modest appartamento in Venice. An atheist, a Communist, and a virgin, Julia unearths herself falling underneath the seductive spell of the city's intoxicating good looks and sensual religiosity. She befriends a tender Italian boy and English twins who're restoring a fourteenth-century chapel. and she or he falls in love for the 1st time in her existence with an paintings broker named Carlo. Juxtaposing Julia's trip of self-discovery with the Miss Garnet's Angel apocryphal story of Tobias and the Archangel Raphael, leave out Garnet's Angel tells a lyrical, incandescent tale of love, loss, miracles, and redemption . . . and of 1 woman's transformation and epiphany. Already a bestseller in England, it truly is "novel-writing at its most interesting and so much eloquent . . . the best option . . . this sort of ebook that effortlessly, like angels, or sun on Venice's rippling waterways, casts brightness and wonder into these deepest and such a lot shadowed recesses of the human heart" (The Christian technology Monitor).

Julia Garnet is sixty years old, emotionally repressed, sexually green and has spent her lifestyles in virtually sacrificial frugality. She is additionally the surprised inheritor to her former - much more frugal - housemate's legacy. Harriet turns out to have had a secret: a genius for investment! Who knew? under no circumstances Julia Garnet. Both Julia and Harriet have been dutifully pro-labour, even deriving a feeling of ethical superiority - or a minimum of ethical purity - from the connection. yet underneath the austere surface, Julia Garnet used to be hungry for adventure, for Miss Garnet's Angel travel, and, so much unexpectedly, for beauty, the latter having been constrained Miss Garnet's Angel to admiring the inherent loveliness of plant life in different people's gardens. Julia was once starved for pleasure and she or he Miss Garnet's Angel was once shrinking into oblivion whilst her housemate's surprising loss of life replaced every little thing and taken Julia nose to nose with together with her stunning destiny. the place may you cross should you unexpectedly had funds to travel? France? Egypt? Bora Bora? pass over Garnet selected that almost all decadent and sensuous of Europe's cities, I. a. Serenissima, Venice. The mere point out of Venice conjures up many photos within the well known imagination: intricate Carnevale Masks; extravagant chandeliers and gold leaf interiors; illicit assignations in gondolas; fabulous food and costly wines; Murano glass and hand-made shoes. Venice has all of this. And churches. plenty and plenty of churches. leave out Garnet used to be CoE, of course, and prefer such a lot of of her ilk, suspicious of whatever "Romish". Her lifestyles was once marked by way of Miss Garnet's Angel as utter a lack of the voluptuous by way of religious lifestyles because it was once by way of day-by-day life. regardless of the suspicion and antipathy towards Catholic display, hundreds of thousands of Calvinists appear to consider virtually green with envy of the marvelous outpouring of genius and ability that even really modest previous international Catholic and Orthodox church buildings contain. yet none among them can rival Venice for sheer sensuous indulgence. regardless of the ravages of damp and salt, Venice is domestic to an enormous inventive inheritance - one who used to be approximately to rock Julia Garnet's world. The behavior of an entire life are usually not effortless to damage and Julia seeks out a reasonably simple accommodation with the

exception of one detail: the balcony that provides to her view the consideration of Venice's structure and that indescribable mild that so intrigued artists from da Vinci to Canaletto and beyond. From her tiny perch above the teeming canals, Julia Garnet will dive right into a lifestyles she couldn't have imagined. associates have been few and a little cold-blooded in England yet from her first day in Venice Julia appeared to allure an grand variety of fascinating and proficient humans and for very likely the 1st time in her life, she fell in love. now not as soon as yet twice. And one of Miss Garnet's Angel many items her love was once - of all issues - an Angel. An Miss Garnet's Angel Archangel to be extra precise. a stunning androgynous Archangel whose presence appeared to persist with her round the floating city. His identify was once Raphael. Her different love used to be Carlo, a charming, worldly guy with an unlimited wisdom of art, in particular the inventive treasures resident in his domestic city. Julia was once by no means trying to find love while she ventured out on her first stroll alongside the canal looking for fascinating ancient landmarks. As a retired instructor of history, Julia had Miss Garnet's Angel imagined an orderly growth in the course of the heritage of town yet serendipity entered her lifestyles and grew to become its orderliness on its head. The mystical and the mundane stay cheek through jowl in Venice in an intimacy unequalled wherever else. Salley Vickers, the writer of pass over Garnet's Angel, captures the layered character of Venice in parallel tales that spread contrapuntally progressively advancing towards the grand reconciliation among dream and reality, innocence and experience, love and loss. Venice is a urban of Angels but, might be greater than any, Archangel Raphael is an abiding presence. pointed out with therapeutic and with the security of Miss Garnet's Angel travellers, he's a becoming avatar for leave out Garnet's experience and on her first test at navigating the advanced paths that lead in every single place and nowhere in Venice, she stumbles upon a slightly imprecise and little recognized church, the Chiesa San Raffaele. Led through blameless curiosity, she trespasses on an paintings recovery undertaking - or maybe I should still say a metamorphosis venture simply because conventional, unimaginative Julia Garnet is ready to be replaced forever. An unpaid debt, a boy, a dog, a fish, an Angel and a spinster... Beauty does that. specifically whilst it sneaks up on you. good people, useful people, severe humans have little use for Beauty. it is a distraction. It enlarges your senses. colors all at once develop into hypnotic. Sounds that you'd in general monitor out enhance to front of your consciousness. good looks intrigues us a lot as an excellent magician does. do we belief our senses to offer us a correct photo or are we being subtly deceived? What may ensue if only for a second we suspended our disbelief and enable ourselves suppose wonder? What wouldn't it be like no longer having to appreciate anything intellectually yet truly stepping into it, turning into a part of the tale rather than the critic? Level-headed Julia Garnet succumbs to the fascinating tale of Tobias from the previous testimony publication of Tobit advised in paint by way of the renaissance artist Gianantonio Guardi and discovering new existence by the hands of Toby and Sara, the almost-twins and artwork restorers Julia discovers within the Church of San Raffaele. The Miss Garnet's Angel tale of Tobit, Tobias, Azarias (Raphael in human form), an unpaid debt, a dog, an incredible fish, and a stunning yet tragic bride is in contrast to anything within the Judaic outdated Testament. we discover no jealous, narcissistic Jehovah here. lacking are the blood and gore, the tales of deceit and revenge, the anger and judgment of an implacable god. the following we see the opposite face of the divine: the mild strength, the sufferer knowledge and, ultimately, the blinding radiance of natural spirit. to assert extra might threat spoiling the event of omit Garnet's Angel for capability readers of this little gem of a book. Salley Vickers' mastery of the artwork of tale is absolutely discovered during this novel and

those that learn it are replaced by way of it. reasonable warning: leave out Garnet's Angel is an impossible to resist strength of nature, a secret with out resolution yet many attainable answers. on the very least, you'll query your assumptions concerning the danger of enjoyable Angels unaware, the bounds of fabric life and the finality of death. now not undesirable for one book.© Delia O' Riordan 2012

Miss Garnet S Angel

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