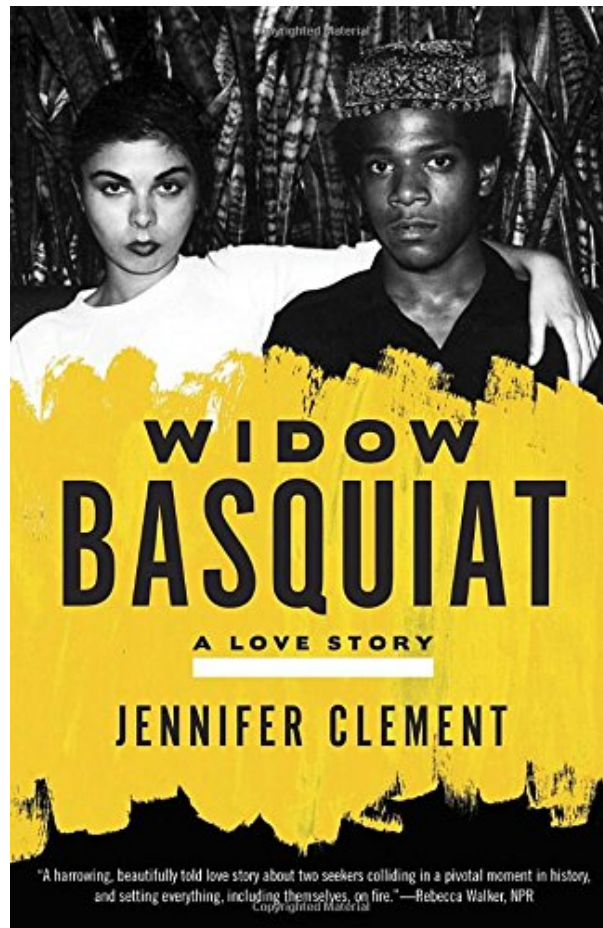
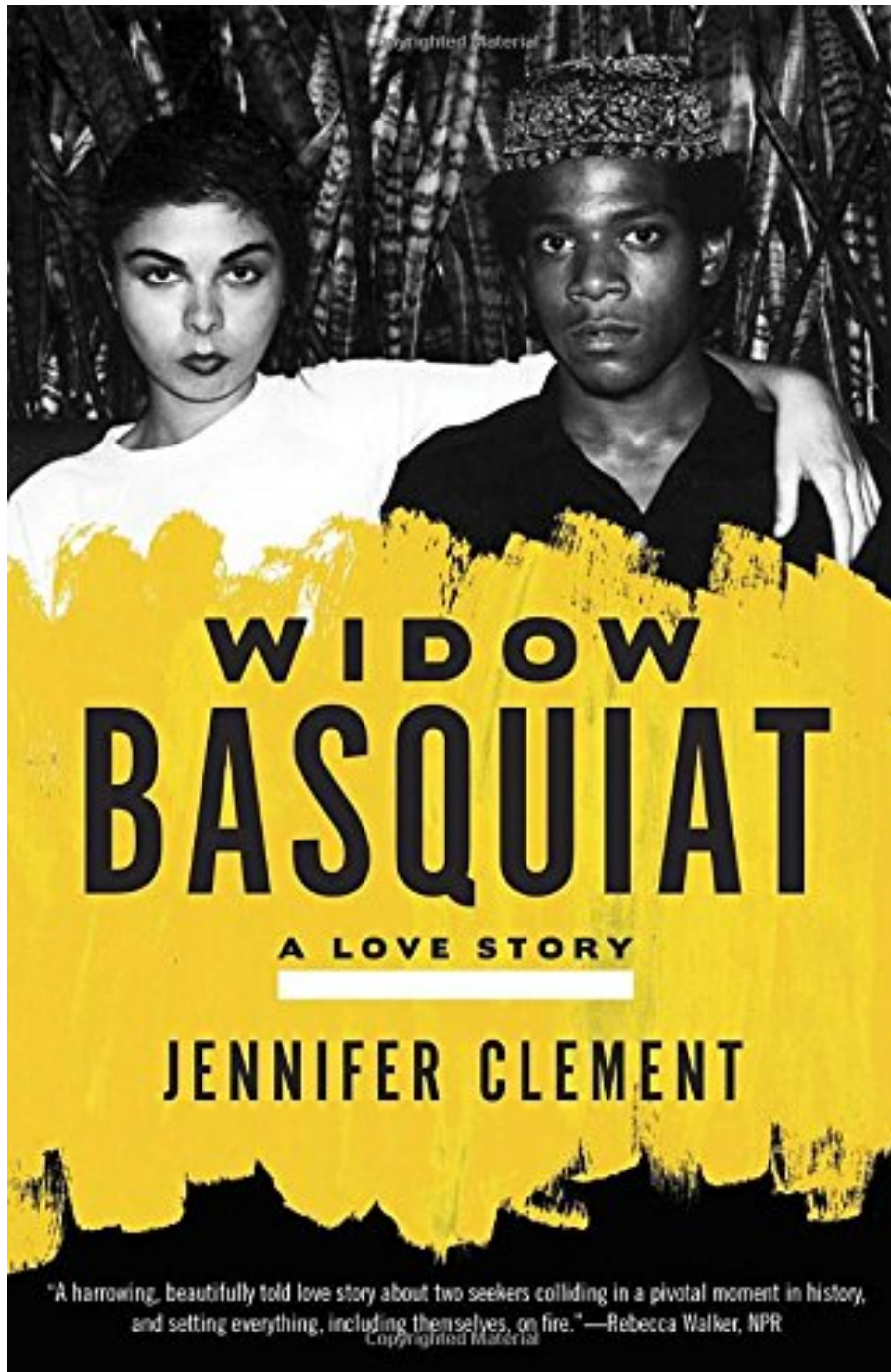


# WIDOW BASQUIAT: A LOVE STORY BY JENNIFER CLEMENT



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## Review

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 – it’s 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

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#### About the Author

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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.

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- Published on: 2014-11-04
- Released on: 2014-11-04
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- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.93" h x .46" w x 5.15" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

##### INSIDE THE ARTIST'S LIFE

By A Customer

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.

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

##### LEGITIMATE GLANCE INTO THE ARTIST'S LIFE & 1980's E. VILLAGE

By Mike R.

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!!!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

absolutely a gem

By Sur Rodney Sur

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.

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