



A Crown of Violets

Renee Vivien

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*** Finalist for the Headmistress Press Charlotte Mew Prize**

Renée Vivien (née Pauline Mary Tarn, 1877-1909) was an English expatriate who made her home in Paris during the Belle Époque. In 1903, Vivien's collection of translations and adaptations from the Ancient Greek poetry of Sappho became one of the first works of modern European lesbian literature to be published by a lesbian writer under her real name. This courageous act was the death-sentence of her literary career. Parisian critics who had praised the mysterious "R. Vivien" as a young man of poetic genius began to snub at first and then simply ignore the newly un-closeted woman poet. Even in the face of ridicule and disrespect, Vivien continued to write and publish poetry, short stories, translations, plays, epigrams, and a novel based on her real-life romances with Natalie Clifford Barney and the Baroness Hélène van Zuylen van Nyevelt van Haar (née Rothschild). Vivien's poetry is now available in English translation by Samantha Pious: *A Crown of Violets* (Headmistress Press, 2015).

I think it's very rare to encounter a new lesbian poet through translation and I am very excited to support this collection in its positive obsession and literary innovation alike. If it is that we are encouraged to each become the lover of Renée Vivien through her work, then this translator has succeeded in making the poet's wishes as transparent as an invitation can be: "The nave has been adorned to welcome you aright."

Meg Day, Judge of the Charlotte Mew Prize

This is an invaluable collection that brings Renée Vivien to life for English-speaking readers. Émigrée and sexual adventurer, Vivien wrote poetry strewn with broken harps and beautiful corpses. Pious's delicate but fearless translations draw out the bruised passions and troubadour rhythms that make Vivien essential reading for anyone interested in lesbian literature, fin-de-siècle poetics, or the agonies of sensual love.

Kate Thomas, author of *Postal Pleasures: Sex, Scandal and Victorian Letters*

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From reader reviews:

Carlo Young:

The experience that you get from A Crown of Violets is a more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but A Crown of Violets giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular A Crown of Violets instantly.

Meredith Daugherty:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book A Crown of Violets it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

Bill Kelly:

A Crown of Violets can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing A Crown of Violets yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial imagining.

Billy Anderson:

On this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you must do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely A Crown of Violets. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upward and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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