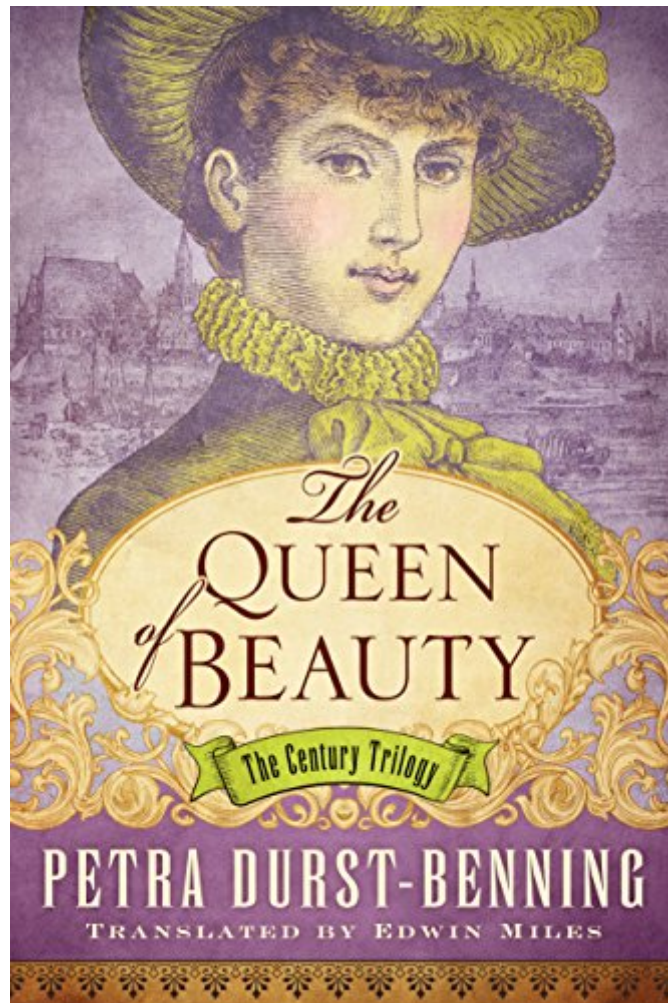




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The Queen Of Beauty (The Century Trilogy Book 3)



Synopsis

Petra Durst-Benning's captivating historical novel pays homage to the trailblazing women of the early twentieth century—like Elizabeth Arden and Estée Lauder—who shaped culture, shattered convention, and strived to make the world around them more beautiful. Despite all that Clara Berg has achieved as a wife, mother, and chemist—especially for a woman in turn-of-the-century Berlin—ending her abusive marriage comes at great cost. The judge hands her inheritance—her parents' pharmacy—over to her ex-husband. Now, with her reputation in near ruins thanks to the scandal that rocked her marriage, no reputable chemist will hire her. Worst of all, she has lost all rights to her young son and daughter. Only her dearest friends, Josephine and Isabelle, themselves no strangers to hardship, remain steadfast. With their encouragement, Clara decides to start over in the spa town of Lake Constance, where she creates a homemade cream and launches a cosmetics revolution. Against all convention, she teaches other women and herself how to face the challenges of each new day with confidence and beauty. Soon her renown brings prestige, professional accolades, even new romance. But through it all, her heart beats for her beloved children—will success finally bring the reunion she longs for?

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Customer Reviews

An amazing trilogy about three Berlin women, who defy the odds at the turn of the century (1900) in Berlin, Germany. With its Berlin and Lake Constance setting, an abused divorcee (Clara) with the help of friends builds a cosmetic empire. This well researched novel starts in a German divorce court, where women had no rights against abusive husbands. Clara lost her home, her parent's pharmacy and her children. Clara, along with her friends (Book 1 & Book 2) are trailblazers. Each forging a different path and supporting each other during difficult times. With its descriptive setting, well developed characters, twist and turn plot the novel is a page turner. Petra Durst- Benning weaves historical details, women's rights issues, different German regional customs, and details about the development of the cosmetic industry into this well written informative novel.

Well done! I loved every novel in this trilogy...and this is a worthy conclusion. I feel like I watched all three of these women grow into admirable, self-sufficient people with their own lives and interests. I loved watching Clara's evolution from a down-trodden abused wife and into a confident woman. I also like that the author gives each of the women in her trilogy real flaws they must overcome. There are two love interests in the story, and while I adored the perfume guy, I think a little too much time and mental energy was spent on Stephano. The love story takes a bit of a backseat to the evolving friendships with the other ladies in beautiful Lake Constance. I think you should probably read the other two novels in the trilogy to fully appreciate this one, although it does stand on its own. It is the sort of novel where you learn a little history, a little about business, and a lot about friendship. I feel like I made a bunch of good friends by the time I finished the book. Other authors I would compare to this author are Elizabeth Camden and Jennifer Donnelly. One picky complaint: what's with the awful cover? The first two books had such lovely and original covers, but this is both drab and boring. Too bad, since given the topic it should be the prettiest of the series! Oh well.... I am so glad I stumbled across this new-to-me author and she is now on my auto-buy list.

Being from Berlin I was attracted by the first book of the Trilogy just to enjoy the familiar places of my growing-up years. Naturally I read the second book and learned all about champagne and fabulous vineyards and got absorbed by the deepening friendship of the 3 women and their success

I. Now their lives intertwined again this time on Lake Constance another special place for me, as my mother lived there where I visited her often in the 90s. The small town of Meersburg is a picturesque setting for the new story to unfold. Clara came into her own, thanks to her ambition to use her talents to make something of herself in spite of the obstacles in the way of building a business of Beauty.

Just started reading it but I think I will like it as much as the glass blower series!

This last of the trilogy didn't disappoint! The intertwined lives of these 3 women, from Berlin, given the "life" of women turn of the century, captures those of us who follow. Strength, resilience, entrepreneurship; the women in these books are trailblazers and worthy role models. Their support of each other and ability to summon reserves to dig deep within to work against whatever odds speaks volumes. Kudos! Job well done!

I chose this book because I have read the author's other three books and enjoy them greatly, but this is by far my favorite. Petra captures the soul of every woman who yearns to be beautiful. The story tells how Clara creates a world in which Every Woman can be beautiful. At the same time, a love story that warms the heart. Again Petra takes us into a realm of how beauty products come to be. Every woman should read this story.

The Century Trilogy was for me an inspiration. As I read the stories of these three brave women that had challenged the times with their behavior, I thought would I been so brave? Today we take for granted so many things! Like Ridding a Bike, owning a Business and getting divorced. It really inspired me to push boundaries and be myself. Thank you Petra for your wonderful narrative! And I call you by your first name because I feel a connection have been formed.

The Queen of Beauty was a fitting conclusion for these three women. Each one had to make their own way in a world that expected different roles for women. I was appalled at the lengths Clara had to go to in obtaining a divorce. The description of Lake Constance was accurate as it is a beautiful place. My only complaint is how the reader knows what will happen in Clara's second marriage.

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