

The Space of the Body: Geopolitics and Bodily Topographies in Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion*

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to delve into the analogy between the female body and the city of Venice in Jeanette Winterson's "The Passion", since both conjure up metaphors of fluidity and ambiguity. It will be pointed out that Venice is the spatial representation of Villanelle on many levels: Venice may be read as a female body, as a metaphor of otherness, marginality and abjection and even as a black hole of identity. Villanelle's bodily ambiguity, her psychological alterity, her position as an Other in the dialectic master/slave, and finally, her interest in cross-dressing place her in a mirroring relationship with the city of Venice.