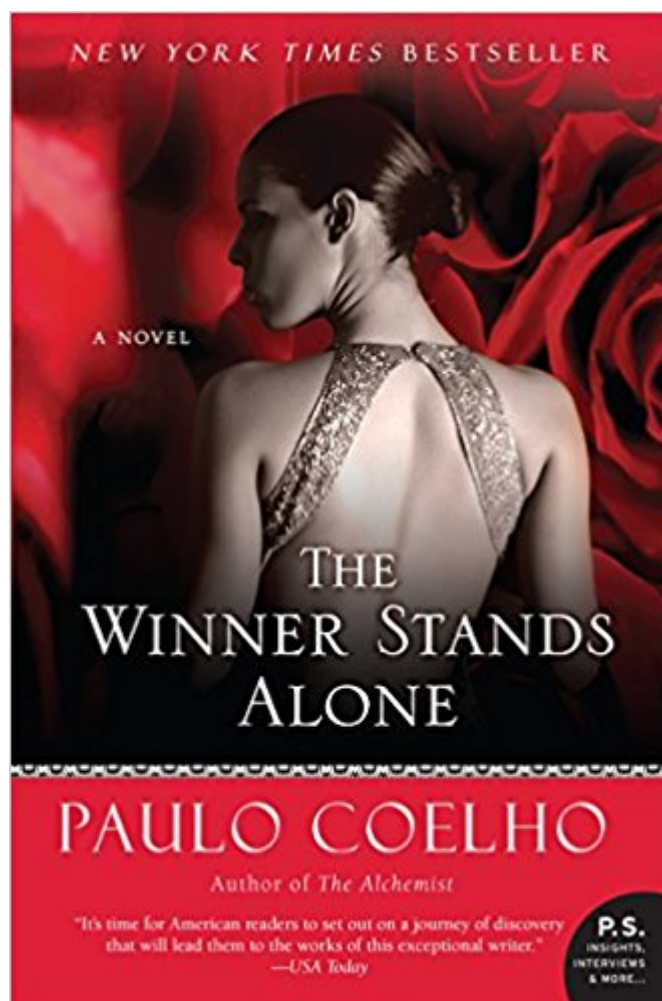


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# The Winner Stands Alone: A Novel (P.S.)



## Synopsis

The Winner Stands Alone is a suspenseful novel about the fascinating worlds of fortune and celebrity, where the commitment to luxury and success at any cost often prevents one from hearing what the heart actually desires. Paulo Coelho takes us to the Cannes Film Festival, where the so-called Superclass gathers – those who have made it in the dreammaker's world of fashion and cinema. Some of them have even reached the very top and are afraid to lose their lofty positions. Money, power, and fame are at stake – things for which most people are prepared to do anything to keep. At this modern vanity fair we meet Igor, a Russian millionaire; Middle Eastern fashion czar Hamid; American actress Gabriela, eager to land a lead role; ambitious criminal detective Savoy, hoping to resolve the case of his life; and Jasmine, a woman on the brink of a successful modeling career. Who will succeed in identifying his or her own personal dream among the many prefabricated ones – and succeed in making it come true?

## Book Information

Series: P.S.

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial; Reprint edition (April 13, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061750522

ISBN-13: 978-0061750526

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 123 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #271,211 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Sacred Sexuality #109 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Caribbean & Latin American #8240 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

Coelho's latest blends spiritual allegory with elements of a thriller and does not lend itself to an easy audio production. Paul Boehmer singlehandedly tackles a cast of characters with a wide spectrum of languages and ethnic identities. The action surrounds 24 fateful hours at the Cannes Film Festival, as Igor kills off members of an elite superclass in a sociopathic rage against his ex-wife, Ewa. Boehmer provides a carefully constructed accent and speech pattern to his portrayal of Igor,

and delivers an equally impressive turn as Ewa's current spouse, a Middle Eastern fashion mogul. Yet other principal figures in the story—particularly the female characters—do not receive the same attention to vocal detail; consequently, the dialogue exchanges sound uneven. A Harper hardcover (Reviews, Feb. 9). (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“[This] Brazilian wizard makes books disappear from stores.” (New York Times) “[Coelho’s] special talent seems to be his ability to speak to everyone at once. The kind of spirituality he espouses is to all comers. . . . His readers often say that they see their own lives in his own books.” (The New Yorker) “[Coelho’s] special talent seems to be his ability to speak to everyone at once. . . . His readers often say that they see their own lives in his own books.” (The New Yorker)

Coelho's *The Winner Stands Alone* is the most graphic and revealing portrait of our particular era's pathology -- everyone in one way or the other is infected with the 'rich and famous' syndrome. Igor exemplifies the dishonesty and false ideals by killing for 'love'. He feels justified in looking down on all the tiers of celebrity mania -- from those who come to worship from a distance to those who aspire for a place in the ranks at the cost of any personal sacrifice, to those who are drawn into celebrity industries (models, actors, designers, agents, producers, et al.) to those who have reached one pinnacle or another and only congregate with other superclass members, to the endless tiers of marketers 'placing' their products, ad nauseam. (FYI: In a *Sopranos* episode in which Christopher goes to a Hollywood event and mugs Lauren Bacall for her bag of free designer goodies, the insanity of this culture is made crystal clear.) *The Garden of Earthly Delights* has been reduced to the lowest common denominator -- make money or be famous or die. Even Igor's love is just an expression of his egomania. I personally could not put this book down.

This was one of the strangest books that I have ever encountered in so many years of reading, don't misunderstand me...strange, but in a good way. The story is simple-it does the dirty world of fame and how everybody is after the looks and money of the people. On the other side, serial killer Igor, narrates his story...a man who believes killing is justified by a reason of love and long lost to someone else's wife. It was a decent book compared to all books nowadays, involving fantasy, crime, thrillers etc.. This book is really in every way though. There is a unique style of writing used by Paulo

Coelho, he takes up a particular descriptive topic and expand on in every small detail....you will understand if of you read his book. Many people would consider this a boring drag but I would respectfully disagree with them....this story offers much more than a spoon Fed thriller, it has a larger meaning embedded inside. Definitely worth a shot.

Coelho is a master writer, no question there, but for me his best works are still "The Alchemist" and "Devil and Ms Prym". The narrative in those two novels is by far the best developed. I wept by the river Piedra while I read the book with the same title, I didn't "get" the witch book named after a mushroom, I liked "Zahir" but felt it was overdone. "The Manual" is excellent and his collections of short wisdoms are just brilliant. With "Winner stands alone", Coelho entered a new realm, usually covered by heavyweights like Umberto Eco, in which novel is made of bits and pieces of popular culture, celebrity, news, cultural theory and documentary-like material which binds the narrative. It is all a good read, but Igor is a bit overdone, from the point when he does his first "kung fu" move. I have seen (read) something like that only in Bruce Lee movies. Nice touch, but a little out of place and reads like a dead blonde that falls out of a trunk just when needed to rescue a dysfunctional part of the story. If I rated this book based on "The Alchemist", it would get no more than two stars. However, in the sea of poorly written books, Coelho's works are a treat and each one deserves five stars. Don't miss it. For the real thing, however, cultural criticism, you have to pick up Umberto Eco's works (essays in particular).

looked old so returned it. nice story though

Perfect as a life lesson, full of wisdom

Riveting plot line and mystery with excellent character development. Entertaining and with a bold message about human nature and the things that push people to their limits.

Very different from his usual style. Very well thought out and wonderfully descriptive.

I am a huge fan of Paulo Coello and his work. But I was very disappointed in the " The Winner Stands Alone." It is not like anything else Mr. Coello has written. I have always been inspired by his connection with spirit and how it touches people. This book is about the dark side of people and involves many senseless murders. It has a truthful and cynical look at Cannes and the movie

business. But I was left with an anger and a feeling of loss after I had finished this book. And the a soulfelt question lingered after completion on reading which was Why?

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