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To Love Like Venus

Alita, a whiz at helping AI extract marketable trends from human sex behavior datasets, tries her hand at love.

After delighting readers and reviewers by taking them into a black hole with *Event Horizon: Stories of No Turning Back*, 2022 Chautauqua Janus Prize winner Stephanie Nina Pitsirilos returns, this time with a debut novel following some of its characters. This book requires a trip to Venus, which means immense heat, crushing pressure, and the risk of getting burned. **Did we mention this is the planet of love?**

Alita Melusine is the embodiment of desire. Her appetite for pleasure drives much of her twenties and is deliciously displayed in her roller-disco dancing, a niche retro craze in Manhattan's 2050s—itself a scene of gentrified cyberpunk. That her heart remains untouched by Eros's arrow is one of the many attributes that her aged Casanova-like mentor Jean loves about her. So when Alita pairs with the winsome Kaveh and falls in love, she finds herself on uncharted roads—and facing the rabid objections of Kaveh's mother, Claire. When the latest superstorm hits the city, Alita's world begins to unravel. Jean's imprint on her life is more than she realized—as is, unfortunately, Claire's. On an island where life is lived in a rave of niche fantasy, in the midst of a surrender to environmental collapse, Alita must put together the pieces of her mosaic to confront the woman she really is—and learn what it means to love like the storms of Venus.

To Love Like Venus is a literary glimpse into a near future of tech-fueled human sexuality, environmental decay, and love.

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"A scintillating modern love story that will leave a lasting impression... Pitsirilos has crafted a compelling exploration of what it means to be human, weaving together themes of artificial intelligence, environmental degradation, mother-son relationships, and the difficulty of modern love."
— Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

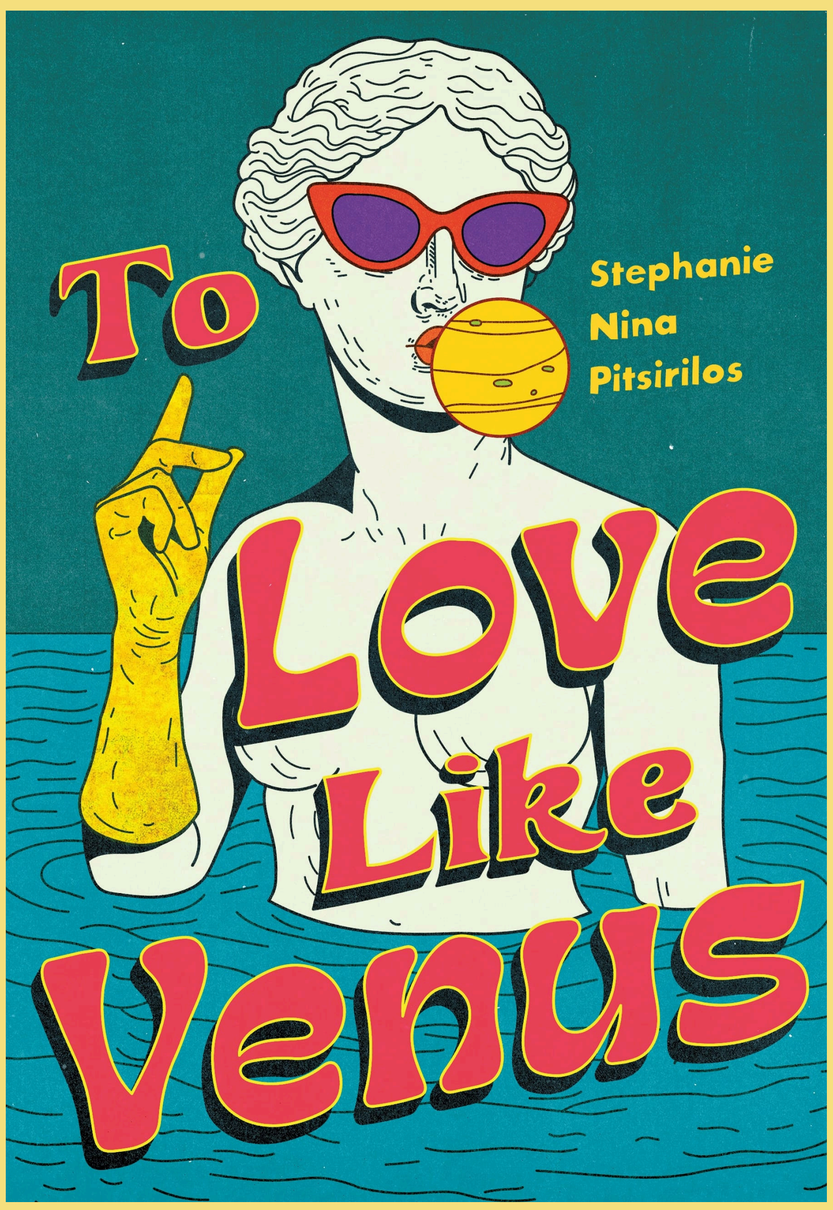


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STEPHANIE NINA PITSIRILOS (*To Love Like Venus, Event Horizon: Stories of No Turning Back*) is a critically acclaimed prose and comics writer. She is the recipient of the 2022 Chautauqua Janus Prize for her story "Jean" and her debut novel, *To Love Like Venus*, was a 2026 Kirkus Prize nominee. Her works span from literary novels, collections, zines, and artists' books, always bending spacetime. Stephanie is a Manhattanite of Nuyorico, with a heart that sails the Aegean Sea.

PROJECT WE LOVE KICKSTARTER

Debut novel by Stephanie Nina Pitsirilos.
A **Kirkus Prize nominee**. A featured Ingram's Indie **Early Buzz** for March releases and Publishers Weekly BookLife **Indie Spotlight** for February Romance. **Library Staff Pick**.
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