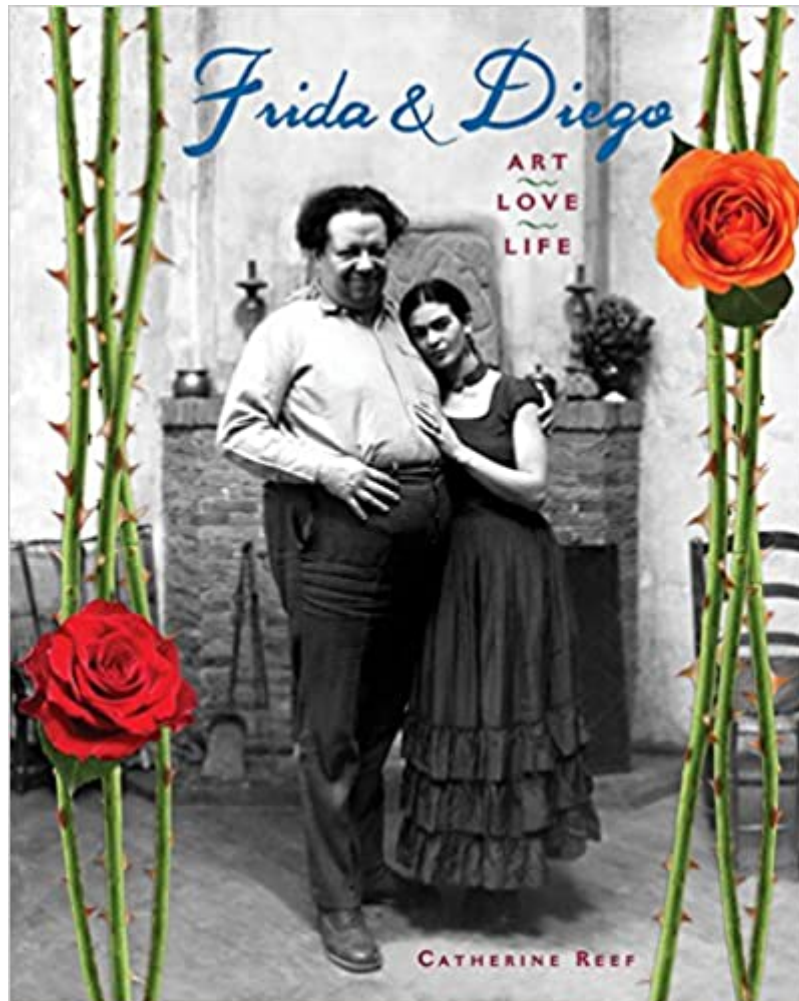




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Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life



Synopsis

Nontraditional, controversial, rebellious, and politically volatile, the Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are remembered for their provocative paintings as well as for their deep love for each other. Their marriage was one of the most tumultuous and infamous in history—filled with passion, pain, betrayal, revolution, and, above all, art that helped define the twentieth century. Catherine Reef's inspiring and insightful dual biography features numerous archival photos and full-color reproductions of both artists' work. Endnotes, bibliography, timeline.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1080 (What's this?)

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Best Sellers Rank: #192,993 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #2 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #3 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Art > History

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up—The lives of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo were marked by exceptional artistic talent, political fervor, and an all-consuming passion for each other that even outlasted their two marriages. Private and professional heartbreak and an idiosyncratic outlook on life and the world influenced the pair's intensely personal paintings. Readers will learn much about the artists in this dual biography, including information on their numerous love affairs. Still, every relationship clarified for the couple that they couldn't really exist or produce art without the other. Superb examples of Rivera's and Kahlo's paintings are reproduced in glorious full color, replete with rich Mexican-folkloric and earth tones, and the work is filled with excellently reproduced contemporary photos that place events in historical and personal context. Striking use of color elsewhere, as on

chapter-opening and back-matter pages, also figure into the handsome design. A well-rounded treatment of two giants of 20th-century art, this volume tracks the separate and combined trajectories of its subjects' lives and careers and allows for comparisons and contrasts. It is highly recommended for public and school libraries and will be useful for units on modern and Latino art and for studies of women artists. —Carol Goldman, Queens Library, NY

Starred Review Reef profiles the lives, accomplishments, and relationship of the two most recognizable figures in Mexican art: Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. The story opens in 1922, with Rivera painting a mural in Mexico City's National Preparatory School. Kahlo, a mischievous student before the near-fatal traffic accident that would leave her in pain for most of her life, watched the muralist work for hours. Shifting back in time, the story tells of each figure's childhood, youth, and development as an artist, giving particular attention to Rivera's years spent training in Europe and Kahlo's devotion to painting despite significant health problems. After their first marriage in 1929 (they would divorce in 1939, then remarry in 1940), the stories of their lives are intertwined in a complex, braided narrative, woven with colorful strands of their art, their politics, their romantic liaisons with others, and their intense, complicated relationship. Along the way, Reef points out each individual's artistic development and unique qualities as a painter. Archival photos and color reproductions of artworks further enhance the narrative. Writing a dual biography is challenging, but in this case, the portrayal of each person would seem incomplete without an understanding of the other. A handsome biography that is both engaging and enlightening. Grades 7-10. --Carolyn Phelan

Its good if you want to read something more biographical about Frida. I was hoping for more insight on her thoughts and emotions but over all its very well writes and there a plenty of photos.

This is an easy read - in fact I read the entire book in one evening. It gave me a bit more insight to the relationship between Frida and Diego and how that relationship impacted her art and her life.

I was more than pleased with this book. It was a gift for my sister who loves Diego Rivera and Frida Kalo art, I am sure she will love it.

My daughter loved it

LOVE this book and have learned so much more about Diego and Frida. What a love story and what interesting lives.

A beautiful book about two fascinating artists that is easy to read (it's perfect for middle schoolers and/or teens) and visually stunning.

It's good. Lots of great photographs. But it is more of a picture book than I was expecting. A great book for teenagers maybe but it wasn't quite what I was expecting.

A moving and fascinating look at the love shared between two wonderful artists.

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