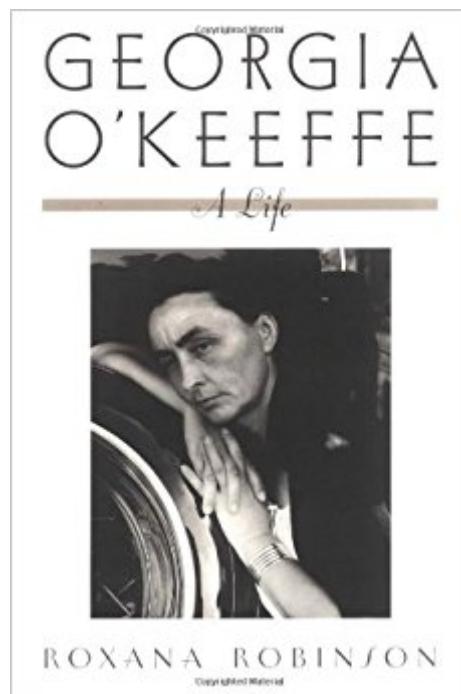


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Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life



Synopsis

Georgia O'Keeffe is arguably the 20th century's leading woman artist. Coming of age along with American modernism, her life was rich in intense relationships -- with family, friends, and especially noted photographer Alfred Stieglitz. Her struggle between the rigorous demands of love and work resulted in extraordinary accomplishments. Her often-eroticized flowers, bones, stones, skulls, and pelvises became extremely well known to a broad American public. The New York Times Book Review named this richly detailed and moving biography a Notable Book of the Year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This biography, the first to draw on sources unavailable during O'Keeffe's lifetime--and the first to be granted her family's cooperation--offers a persuasive feminist analysis of the life and work of an iconic figure in American art. Inspired by strong women in a Midwestern family that stressed a sturdy sense of self-reliance, O'Keeffe bucked oppressive social conventions to become one of the first female American artists to lead a professionally successful and emancipated life. But along the way lay struggle: O'Keeffe had to fight for emotional and artistic independence in her public and private lives, experiencing particular difficulties in her relationships with men, most notably her benefactor and husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz. Novelist Robinson's (*Summer Light*) detailed, sensitive critique of O'Keeffe's work, tracing the development of the artist's esthetic, alternates with an absorbing, intimate narrative of O'Keeffe's personal life (including her notorious relationship with Juan Hamilton, six decades her junior, and the public battle over her estate) to

provide a resourceful, imaginatively rendered portrait of a dauntingly difficult subject. Photos not seen by PW. BOMC alternate. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The painter Georgia O'Keeffe lived a long and complicated life, and her work has become a cultural icon, so demand for this title should be great. It is by no means a definitive biography, however. Novelist Robinson has clearly done her homework, but the uses to which she puts it are sometimes curious. After quoting a passage from O'Keeffe's correspondence, she cannot resist reiterating what she thinks the painter felt, even though O'Keeffe has just told us. Elsewhere, the description of an early romantic relationship of O'Keeffe's is vividly delineated, but we learn only in a footnote that the letters on which the description is based are only conjecturally from the man in question. While Robinson at times veers toward sentimentality in writing about the artist's life, she never does so about the work, and she treats the emotional complexity of O'Keeffe's marriage to Alfred Stieglitz and relationship with her companion Juan Hamilton with intelligence and care. Still, she wears the reader out (it takes 200 pages to get to Stieglitz's first showing of her work). This might have been a happier book as a novelization. --GraceAnne A. DeCandido, "Library Journal" Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This biography was recommended at the gift shop at The Georgia O'Keeffe museum on Santa Fe. It is complete and was hard to put down

This was a gift for my daughter who is crazy about Georgia O'Keeffe. She was excited to get started reading it.

Excellent biography of Georgia O'Keeffe. Helpful in artistic understanding.

If you're an O'Keeffe fan, you'll love this book. I couldn't put it down and with almost 600 pages I felt the story ended too soon. Being an artist as well keep me turning the pages. It's well-written in a very lively style. I liked all the extra, juicy details of her personal life and left feeling that I knew her personally. I believe it is more true to fact than many other biography's about her life.

Must read book about Georgia. Could not put the book down. Fascinating family.

A most interesting book about the life of Georgia O'keeffe.

I am enjoying this book very much. Getting to learn about Georgia.

I got this book, thinking it was the one of letters between O'Keefe and Stieglitz ('My Faraway One'), which I subsequently found, but have not yet read. I am glad it worked out this way though, because the author has given a very thorough account of the artist's life, and I feel that when I read the book of letters, I will have a better sense of their time and place. My regret was that since I was away from a library or internet, I did not have access to a source of O'Keefe and Stieglitz's work to reference when mentioned in the book. There are a lot of photos of family and friends, but little of her work, and it is all black and white. As an artist myself, who struggles with balancing a life of art and making a living, I find it easier to live with the emotional conflicts that arise after having read this biography.

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