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Frida (English Language Edition)



Synopsis

This long-awaited companion to Jonah Winter's acclaimed DIEGO features the paintings of young Spanish artist, Ana Juan. This stunning picture book is the perfect gift for art enthusiasts of all ages. When her mother was worn out from caring for her five sisters, her father gave her lessons in brushwork and color. When polio kept her bedridden for nine months, drawing saved her from boredom. When a bus accident left her in unimaginable agony, her paintings expressed her pain and depression - and eventually, her joys and her loves. Over and over again, Frida Kahlo turned the challenges of her life into art. Now Jonah Winter and Ana Juan have drawn on both the art and the life to create a playful, insightful tribute to one of the twentieth century's most influential artists. Viva Frida!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 280L (What's this?)

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (41 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

I love the look and feel of this beautiful book. I am certain that it is no small task to select several phrases to depict the life of such a complicated and talented artist. Unfortunately the author falls into a common trap. Frida's father, the book reads, was an artist who inspired Frida and taught her to paint on photographs. The author writes that her mother on the other hand "takes care of six daughters" and is often "tired" as a result. Frida became lonely (apparently due to her tired and busy

mother) and developed an imaginary friend. Far too often the success of women is credited only to their fathers and the support of their mothers is rendered useless or invisible. Frida was close with her father according to some historical accounts and he did inspire her. It seems that there is a missed opportunity here, however, to credit the hard work, love, and support that Frida Kahlo's mother contributed to Frida and to her family if even in a word or two. It may have been Frida's mother who had an easel created for Frida when she was confined to bed, for example. I would like my child to grow up honoring strong women like Frida as well as the work of people who love them. That includes strong mothers like this one who undoubtedly suffered through watching her daughter endure pain and tragedy and still supported her creativity while raising six children. Sadly I will be returning this book and ordering one of the other books for children about the life of Frida Kahlo.

"Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo was born in Mexico in 1907. This is the story of how she learned to paint, how painting saved her life, and why her paintings are like no one else's. Like Frida's art, it is a work of the imagination, but it is also true." So begins Jonah Winter's introductory, picture book biography. His simple, spare, poetic text brings this remarkable artist to life, and illuminates her lonely childhood, the polio that kept her bedridden for almost a year, and the almost fatal bus accident that left her crippled and in constant pain for the rest of her life. But through it all Frida's art kept her going. "Painting is like her imaginary friend. It is there whenever she wants it. It keeps her company. It keeps her from giving up hope." Ana Juan's bold and vibrant, Mexican folk-art style illustrations, rich in brilliant color and inhabited by expressive imaginary creatures and Kahlo-like touches, complement the text beautifully. Together word and art paint a vivid and inspiring portrait of a courageous and resilient artist with a unique style. "Her paintings are like nothing else. In museums, people still look at them and weep and sigh and smile. She turns her pain into something beautiful. It is like a miracle." Perfect for youngsters 6-10, Frida includes both Author's and Artist's notes at the end to explain and enhance the brief story. This is a fascinating and engaging biography that is sure to peak the interest and whet the appetite of art lovers young and old.

Jonah Winters tells quite brilliantly, and simplistically, the truth about Frida Kahlo's life and art. Ana Juan equally talented, compliments his text with sometimes whimsical, often times playful, and always thought provoking eye candy illustrations. After dancing through the words and images, you'll get to the last page and say "Ole!" What will you see if you could peer inside? The title page: a full page sun, whose benevolent gaze is warm but made curious by a black bird that sits across its brow, mimicking the thick dark eyebrows that Frida had in real life. Later in the book, Frida playing

with zany creatures that clearly wouldn't live in any adult's world, but seem perfectly suited for play in the garden or in the imagination. After her accident, she dances on clouds set against a magenta sky while her friends keep her company in her hospital studio. Frida is grown now, silver bangles adorn her arms while a bit of mystery and pain, adorn her canvases. Viva Frida! While I do agree with almost everything Roz Levine wrote in her critique of this book, I beg to differ on the appropriate age this book is for - it's for everyone who loves Kahlo's work, Mexican Art, or a good story being told. Buy this book for your child, your artist friend who lives out of town, your sister, or anyone who just appreciates magical things...I highly recommend this book for review to professional Illustrators working in the same field. This book is also a wonderful example of an excellent marriage between writer and illustrator...

I purchased this for my 3 year old daughter and she fell in love with it. Now that she's 4 she still regularly asks to hear this story. I would recommend this book as a great starting point for introducing art and artists to young children.

This is a great book about Frida. However, my daughter, who isn't bothered by anything scary or gory, asked me to stop reading this book to her because it upset her to see someone in so much pain. Just a heads up for those who might have super sensitive kids. I might bring it out again when she's a little older to see if she can enjoy it more.

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