

Marc Chagall Hardcover

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my life was written in moscow in 1921 1922 when chagall was 35 years old although long out of print it remains one of the most extraordinarily inventive and beautifully told of all autobiographies the text is accompanied by twenty plates which chagall prepared especially to illustrate his life story together the words and pictures paint an incomparable portrait of one of the greatest painters of this century and of the now vanished milieu which inspired him

modernism

discusses the life and work of the artist chagall from his birth in russia to his death at the age of ninety seven

renowned israeli american scholar harshav presents the first comprehensive investigation of marc chagall s life and consciousness after the classic 1961 biography by chagall s son in law franz meyer

when matisse dies pablo picasso remarked in the 1950s chagall will be the only painter left who understands what color really is as a pioneer of modernism and one of the greatest figurative artists of the twentieth century marc chagall achieved fame and fortune and over the course of a long career created some

of the best known and most loved paintings of our time yet behind this triumph lay struggle heartbreak bitterness frustration lost love exile and above all the miracle of survival born into near poverty in russia in 1887 the son of a jewish herring merchant chagall fled the repressive potato colored tsarist empire in 1911 for paris there he worked alongside modigliani and léger in the tumbledown tenement called la ruche where one either died or came out famous but turmoil lay ahead war and revolution a period as an improbable artistic commissar in the young soviet union a difficult existence in weimar germany occupied france and eventually the united states throughout as jackie wullschlager makes plain in this groundbreaking biography he never ceased giving form on canvas to his dreams longings and memories his subject more often than not was the shtetl life of his childhood the wooden huts and synagogues the goatherds rabbis and violinists the whole lost world of eastern european jewry wullschlager brilliantly describes this world and evokes the characters who peopled it chagall s passionate energetic mother feiga ita his eccentric fellow painter and teacher bakst his clever intense first wife bella their glamorous daughter ida his tough minded final companion and wife vava and the colorful tragic array of artist actor and writer friends who perished under the stalinist regime wullschlager explores in detail chagall s complex relationship with russia and makes clear the russian dimension he brought to western modernism she shows how as andré breton put it under his sole impulse metaphor made its triumphal entry into modern painting and helped shape the new surrealist movement as art critic of the financial times she provides a breadth of knowledge on chagall s work and at the same time as an experienced biographer she brings chagall the man fully to life ambitious charming suspicious funny contradictory dependent but above all obsessively determined to produce art of singular beauty and emotional depth drawing upon hitherto unseen archival material including numerous letters from the family collection in paris and illustrated with nearly two hundred paintings drawings and photographs chagall is a landmark biography to rank with hilary spurling s matisse and john richardson s picasso

examines the life and work of the painter whose russian jewish background did not prevent him from making an international search for his own ways of expression

when matisse dies chagall will be the only painter left who understands what colour really is picasso said this in the 1950s when he and chagall were eminent neighbours living in splendour on the cote d azur but behind chagall s role as a pioneer of modern art lay struggle heartbreak bitterness lost love exile and the miracle of survival born the son of a russian jewish herring merchant chagall fled the repressive potato coloured czarist empire in 1911 to develop his genius in paris living alongside modigliani and leger in la ruche the artist s colony where you either died or came out famous through war and revolution in bolshevik russia weimar berlin occupied france and 1940s new york he gave form to his dreams longings and memories in paintings which are among the most humane and joyful of the twentieth century their subject more often than not is the shtetl life of his childhood the wooden huts and synagogues the violinists and

rabbis the lost world of eastern european jewry jackie wullschlager brilliantly describes this world and the characters who emerge from it chagall s passionate energetic mother his quixotic teacher bakst his clever soulful first wife bella their glamorous daughter ida his pragmatic final companion vava and a tragic panoply of his actor and writer friends murdered during stalin s regime wullchlager explores in detail chagall s complex relationship with russia and the russian dimension that he brought to western modernism showing how as andre breton put it in 1911 under chagall s sole impulse metaphor made its triumphant entry into modern painting she paints a portrait of a man ambitious anarchic charming suspicious funny conflicted dependent but above all an obsessive artist endlessly learning experimenting and producing work of singular beauty and emotional depth wullschlager has had exclusive access to hundreds of hitherto unseen and unpublished letters from the chagall family collection in paris which are quoted here for the first time lending chagall s own unique voice to this account drawing also on numerous interviews with the artist s family friends dealers and collectors and illustrated with two hundred paintings drawings and photographs many also previously unseen this elegantly written biography gives for the first time a full and true account of chagall s the man and the artist and of a life as intense theatrical and haunting as his paintings

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