



Life with Picasso

Francoise Gilot, Carlton Lake

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"Life with Picasso" is the most intimate and revealing portrait of Pablo Picasso ever published. For nearly a decade, the author, Francoise Gilot, shared her life with this greatest artist of modern times, giving birth to two of his children. In her recollections, she describes the exuberant, if exhausting world they knew together - a world lit by Picasso's genius, threatened by his moods, and made glowingly alive on these pages. A gifted painter herself, she not only painted with him, but served as his model, and enjoyed his complete professional confidence. Watching him work, listening to him, and learning the relation between his thought and his art, she gained immense insight into his genius. She throws light on his aesthetic philosophy, his views of other great artists both past and present, and his magnificent inventiveness, not only in painting, but in sculpture, etching, lithography, and pottery. Best of all, here is Picasso the man, the husband, the father: sometimes savage, sometimes astonishingly gentle, given to sudden rages and childish superstitions, struggling through fits of depression or exulting in creative fervor, suffering pangs of anxiety for the life of his infant son, reproaching his eldest like the most bourgeois of fathers, suspicious and resentful yet often humorous. And here too are perceptive portraits of the people, great and humble, who moved through Picasso's atelier and his life: Matisse, Gertrude Stein, Eluard, Gide, Cocteau, Miro, and Chaplin are remembered, side by side with the less-well-known figures who surrounded him. Here are the art dealers, fencing with Picasso over pictures and prices and, usually, getting the worst of it. Here are the bewildered Nazi occupation officials, assigned to suppress his work after Hitler's denunciation and always getting the worst of it. Recreating the extraordinary adventure of her ten years with Picasso, Francoise Gilot has given us a candid, humorous and intelligent memoir.

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