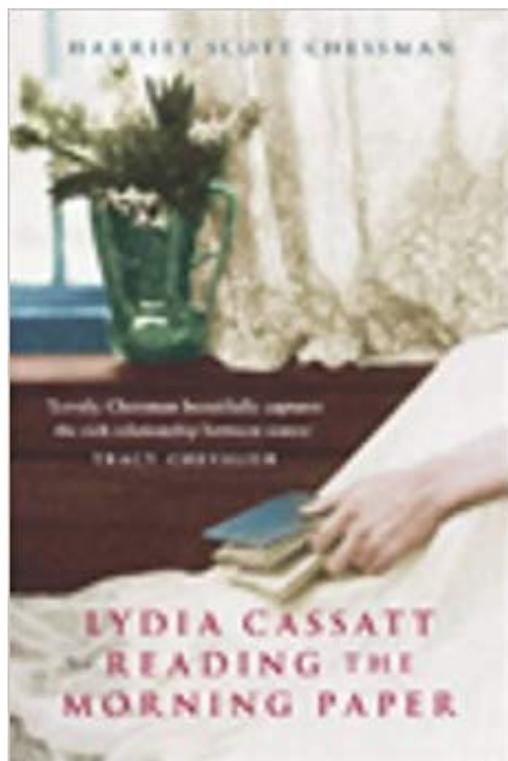


Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper by Harriet Chessman



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Author: Harriet Chessman

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The year is 1878. Paris is the centre of the art world, and in the heart of its thriving, vibrant community live two sisters, Mary and Lydia Cassatt. One is at the peak of her career, as the other one reaches her moment of greatest frailty. Lydia Cassatt is dying of Bright's disease. Conscious of her approaching death, she contemplates the narrowing of her world with courage, openness and dignity. But for Mary, an independent, ambitious painter, life is unimaginable without her beloved sister. Torn apart by the idea of losing Lydia, Mary embarks on a series of five paintings. And as the emotional tension between the sisters rises, they become unable to avoid inevitable questions about love and passion, about life and death...Lyrical and tender, "Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper" is a profoundly moving, unsentimental and hugely life-affirming story of the immortality, which both love and art can bestow.



Reviews of the [Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper](#) by Harriet Chessman

Katishi

It's a lovely book giving a new perspective of Cassatt and her paintings. It actually has reproductions of several of her works tied into the story which makes it a wonderful read. I guess it's what they call historical fiction. I liked it so much that I bought a copy of the book at Amazon for my daughter-in-law, who is a fan of Cassatt, as a gift in hard back copy. The only problem is that 2 or three pages had been bent back and one of the pages is the picture referred to in the title of the book which mostly spoils the book to have a big and permanent crease on that picture. I felt bad about it but didn't have enough time to return the book for another copy. That disappointment made me give it only 4 stars.

Thozius

The sweetest little book. I'm reading it slowly and savoring every minute of it. The author's voice is so authentic that I forget it is not really Lydia writing the book. I love Mary's paintings!!

Saberblade

Mary Cassatt, of course, is the American Impressionist artist, who moved with her family to Paris to study painting with the Impressionists there. She became friends with Renoir, Degas, Pissarro, and Sisley. She learned from them, and still had a style and need of her own. It was very hard for women artists to paint for a career in her time. She continued on, to become successful. One of her very famous and most used models was her sister, Lydia. Lydia, the sister is the model in the picture shown. She sat for many of the paintings and died of a terminal disease while in France. We learn so much about the Cassatt family, Lydia and Mary in particular, and Impressionist painting in this little, important, and lovely book.

Hra

This delicious read can only be done beside a fireplace, on a divan, in a cabin, in a hotel before a museum excursion, and certainly after all things have done and you are ready to rich a word show, of colors, quiet feelings, and can withstand the privacy of reading. Be prepared for studying the five pictures and doing more Cassatt research of her work. The book is very short, but I saved it the text before and after studying not only Cassatt's painting but Degas, Courbet, Millet, and of course Renoir. This highly visual reading should be preserved for a very special occasion. Before you read, prepare pot of jasmine tea and drop in five blueberries for the paintings.

you secret

If you aren't one of the many who adore Mary Cassatt's paintings, this book won't interest you at all. If it did not include lovely reproductions of five Lydia paintings, and if it were entirely fictional-not based on careful research about the Cassatts, their friends, and the setting, it would not be much of a read. I found myself looking at the prints repeatedly; Chessman elucidates the paintings in ways that empower both Cassatt's artistry and the relationship between the sisters that the author develops. It is a slight book in length, and often reads like a creative writing exercise (research a historical figure and write a story in the first person based on your findings), but there are moving, human glimpses of a moment or two in time, and if the book leads more people to examine Cassatt with deeper appreciation of her art, then it has served its purpose.

Taun

The writing was lyrical and picturesque. The story itself is both simple yet insightful. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I also love that the book gives hypothetical back-stories of real paintings by a very talented and undervalued female impressionist. The paintings in the book are some of her lesser known works which makes it even more fascinating.

Mitars Riders

I was a huge fan of Tracy Chevalier's "Girl with a Pearl Earring", so I was most interested to read Harriet Chessman's novel about Mary Cassatt and her sister Lydia - the inspiration for many of her

impressionist paintings. Chessman's style is elegant, and spare, and she limns a portrait as lovingly as Cassatt painted Lydia. If I have any criticism, it's that I wished the novel had a broader scope - it covers a very brief period when Cassatt and her family lived in Paris. I wanted to know more about the family before they came to Europe, and how at that time in history a woman was able to rise to such prominence in the epicenter of the birth of modern art. Chessman is an accomplished writer, and yet the book is not as deeply felt as it could be, perhaps because of its brevity. Still, it is a tale well worth the telling, and a pleasure to read.

Authentic history.

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