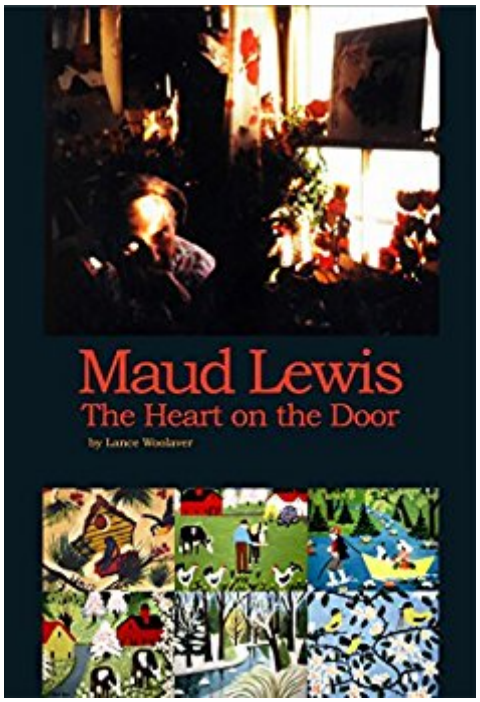
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Maud Lewis The Heart On The Door



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Synopsis

Maud Lewis THE HEART ON THE DOOR is the first full-length biography of Maud Lewis (1901-1970), the famous Nova Scotia folk artist. It includes detailed accounts of her disabilities, including a childhood battle with the juvenile rheumatoid arthritis which twisted her hands and joints. Despite this deepening and painful affliction she completed and sold thousands of bright pictures and Christmas cards from her little one-room house in Marshalltown, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada. Throughout her marriage to the illiterate Poor Farm watchman, Everett Lewis, she suffered from poverty and loneliness, yet triumphed over all with her brilliant, colourful and happy paintings. Her husband would be murdered for his lockbox of savings taken from the sales of Maud's pictures, on New Year's Day of 1979. This book also gives a detailed account of the life of Everett Lewis and his incarceration as a child in the Digby County Poor Farm. This biography concludes that Maud Lewis, born Maud Catherine Dowley in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 1901, gave birth to a daughter, Catherine Dowley, in 1928, and traces the life of Maud's daughter until her passing. Catherine's attempts to contact and be accepted by her mother, Maud Lewis, are documented. Catherine's father, Emery Allen, the love of Maud's life, abandoned Maud to the scandal of small-town life and to her increasing disabilities and loneliness.Excerpts: "This is a story written in heartbreak. It is the story of a child's wish to be accepted as a human being. It is a story of murder, poverty and treasure. It is the story of the worth of art in the struggle against pain. This is a story of broken families, of lonely lives, of a lost love and abandonment. It is a story of murder and a lockbox treasure. It is the story of a man who made a woman pay for his own frailties. All must be taken together. They belong to each other.""Many of the famous of our time - the actor Peter Falk, Premier Robert L. Stanfield, the actor Judy Dench - would come to admire Maud's pictures. Her pictures cheered them up. As with many, however, who came to visit with Maud in her crooked little house, these famous would never know the strange secrets of this difficult life.Lance Woolaver, Digby County, Nova Scotia, 2016

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In depth profile of not only the artist and her husband, but their lives within the context of Nova Scotia. It is a very detailed and sometimes repetitive work, however it is never dull if you enjoy a bit of a history lesson. This is the definitive book on Maude.

William Gass said that "The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words." I am not generally a fan of non-fiction but the artistry with which Lance Woolaver chronicles the life, art, and dignity of Maud Lewis has won me over to this genre. Mr. Woolaver's chronicle of Maud Lewis' extraordinary life within his highly informative and fine historical analysis of the political, social, and economic life of Nova Scotia at the time, is a must read for anyone interested in Nova Scotian history. But it is also a must-read for anyone who seeks to be inspired by the tremendous courage of this little lady who, out of very straightened personal and social circumstances, was able to produce works of art brimming with love and happiness. Mr. Woolaver was able to change her world into words, wonderful words, and I am very grateful to him for that.

One cannot read the life story of this extraordinary little woman and not be struck by the heartbreak she must have faced - not only throughout her youth after being riddled with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, but into married adulthood and a marriage filled with neglect, lack of empathy, and disregard - and then be lifted by the joy conveyed through simplistic, colorful renderings of a life seen through eyes that sought solace and peace via paint and brush. The author deserves great debts of gratitude for commitment to bringing justice, recognition, merit, and notice to Maude Lewis.

See the film Maudie for the fantasy, and then read this work-of-a-lifetime bio, which is so much richer, more complex, and more fascinating than the romanticized myth. I learned so much about the Lewises and their milieu from this impressive book.

Obsessed by Maude Lewis and her heartwrenching life story after I saw the movie MAUD!

Lance Woolaver has done an incredible job. The book is an anatomy of a biography of folk artist Maud Lewis. The writer weaves pieces of his own evolving life in Digby, Nova Scotia through the fabric of the unearthed life of this remarkable folk artist.

The complete story of Maud Lewis. This is obviously a lifeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s work, Lance Woolaver goes into great detail telling us this incredible life story. He tells us everything you wanted to know about one of CanadaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s most celebrated folk artists.Bravo!

After seeing the movie "Maudi," I was so eager to find out more about Maud Lewis. However, this is not the book for that, because you would first have to get through reading about every single person in her family history. And about the houses they lived in and descriptions of the nails that were used in the clapboard of the houses. Way too much detail about things that I don't care about. I could not read on to even get to the life of Maud, if it was ever written about. Very dull and boring, I would say due to the style of writing.

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