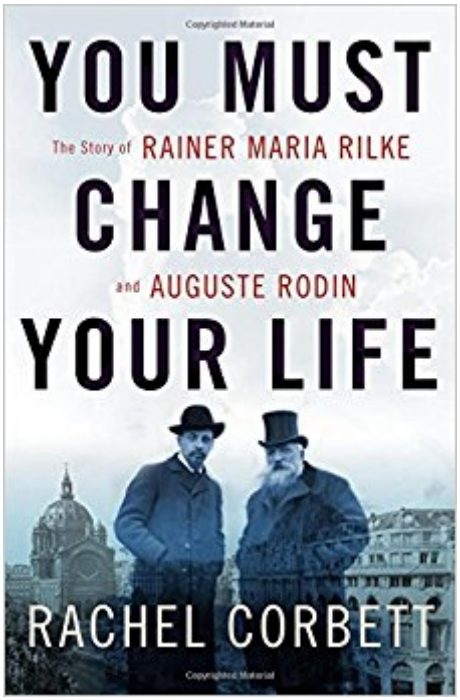
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You Must Change Your Life: The Story Of Rainer Maria Rilke And Auguste Rodin



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Synopsis

The extraordinary story of one of the most fruitful friendships in modern arts and letters.Rainer Maria RilkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Letters to a Young Poet is one of the most beloved books of the twentieth century. It has sold millions of copies and inspired generations with its galvanizing wisdom on how to lead an artistic life. In You Must Change Your Life, debut author Rachel Corbett tells the remarkable, long-buried story of where RilkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ideas originated.In 1902, Rilke, broke and suffering from writerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s block, accepted a commission to go to Paris to research and write a short book about the sculptor Auguste Rodin. The two were almost polar opposites: Rodin in his sixties, notoriously carnal, revered; Rilke in his twenties, delicate, unknown. Nonetheless, they fell into an instantaneous friendship and would work closely together as master and disciple for the next few years, as Rodin showed Rilke how to become the writer he wished to be.With verve and great insight, Corbett transports readers to turn-of-the-twentieth-century Paris to explore this surprising friendship and the development of their influential ideas about art and creativity. She captures the dawn of modernism with appearances by such charismatic figures as Paul CÃƒÂ©zanne, Henri Matisse, Isadora Duncan, George Bernard Shaw, and Jean Cocteau, as well as the rise of the concept of Ã¢â ¬Å“empathyÃ¢â ¬Â• amid the pioneering work of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Georg Simmel. Corbett also introduces the women in these menÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lives, many of them esteemed writers and artists in their own right: RodinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s muse Camille Claudel, RilkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wife and fellow artist Clara Westhoff, and the remarkable Lou Andreas-Salome, who was NietzscheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lover and RilkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lifelong friend.You Must Change Your Life is a vibrant portrait of Rilke and RodinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s singular friendship, heartbreaking rift, and moving reconciliation, and it is a testament to the ways their work continues to reverberate to this day. 16 illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“This empathetic and imaginative biography, deeply researched, is anchored by the friendship between [Rilke and Rodin].Ã¢â ¬Â• - The New YorkerÃ¢â ¬Å“Rachel Corbett, as any fine artist, has produced a work of great effect, and leaves a lasting and indelible mark on the reader.Ã¢â ¬Â• - NPRÃ¢â ¬Å“In honeyed, knowing prose, Rachel Corbett twines two great serpents of art: the suppleness of RodinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s malleable flesh and eroticism and RilkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s endless lyrical rivers. New portals of aesthetic intonations open; invisible elements come into sight.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Jerry Saltz, senoir art critic, New York MagazineÃ¢â ¬Å“Spectacular. . . . A layered and lyrical inquiry into the personal, interpersonal, and cultural forces behind and around Rainer Maria RilkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s iconic Letters to a Young Poet.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Maria Popova, brainpickingsÃ¢â ¬Å“Takes readers deep into the literary and art worlds of the beginning of the 20th century. . . . A must-read.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Alanna Martinez, ObserverÃ¢â ¬Å“Much more than the story of Rilke as a young man serving as the personal secretary and confidante to Rodin. Laced with first-and second-hand accounts of the artists and their milieu, You Must Change Your Life is an examination of the gritty how and why of artistic creation, as well as an acknowledgement of the costs of such a life.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Sarah Roffino, Brooklyn RailÃ¢â ¬Å“A riveting narrative. . . . Corbett writes sharp prose that gets to the point.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Daniel Larkin, HyperallergicÃ¢â ¬Å“Charming and funny, Rachel Corbett renders turn-of-the-twentieth-century Paris in all its gritty glory, illustrating how the same place that saw Ã¢â ¬ËœBaudelaire charge through the streets waving a gun and Balzac nearly starve to deathÃ¢â ¬â„¢ could foster a magical artistic relationship like this one.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Ada Calhoun. author of St. Marks Is Dead

Rachel Corbett is the executive editor of Modern Painters. Her writing has appeared in The New Yorker, the New York Times, the Art Newspaper, New York magazine, and others. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

If you want to get a better understanding of European lifestyles - particularly of artists - in the early 20th century, this book provides that overview. I bought it for studies of Rodin. It’s really about the

life of Rainer Rilke - but provides great prospective of his time as Rodin's personal secretary.

Heartfelt. The description of their lives touches you. In this book there is nowhere you don't see yourself. You must change your life, indeed.

I'm always happy to read about Rodin, and especially enjoyed this additional information about his association with Rilke.

A fascinating look into the lives of artists who gave it all for their work. A must read for any artist.

Must for fans of Rilke. Still reading it.

Fabulous scholarship; passionate history.

This is a fantastic true story of the relationship between Rilke and Rodin. I devoured it in four or five days, which is very unusual for me. The writing is excellent. Not only do we read about the relationship between these two great artists but the author connects the whole story to the intellectual leaders of their time. For example, I know the paintings of Balthus, but I did not know that Rilke was the romantic partner of Balthus' mother for about five years and he had a great impact on the budding artist in his teens. This is just one of many historical connections that deepens the book and makes it unforgettable.

very beautifully written. great insight into two great artists at a very unique time in history.

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