



# Discoveries: Frida Kahlo, Painting Her Own Reality

*Christina Burrus*

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*"My painting carries within it the message of pain"*. Frida Kahlo—born in 1907 near Mexico City—learned about pain at a very early age. She contracted polio at six, and then at eighteen suffered serious and permanent injury to her right leg and pelvis in a terrible bus accident. Young and undaunted, she went on to fall in love with the great mural painter Diego Rivera at a time when their native Mexico was going through a period of thrilling political and cultural upheaval. Rivera and Kahlo were a legendary couple—both were impassioned, lifelong communists while fervently attached to traditional Mexican Indian culture, and both were driven by a relentless artistic ambition that surmounted all the dramas that plagued their marriage.

Later, Frida became the friend and lover of Leon Trotsky. She was greatly admired by the Surrealists and sat for some of the greatest photographers of her day. Her art largely consisted of self-portraits, like the famous paintings *The Two Fridas* and *The Broken Column*, though she also left many striking still-lives.

In *Frida Kahlo: Painting Her Own Reality*, Christina Burrus assesses Frida Kahlo's extraordinary work—a maelstrom of cruelty, humor, candor, and insolence reflecting the essence of a free, beautiful, courageous woman who concealed her physical pain behind peals of infectious laughter.

### Discoveries: Frida Kahlo, Painting Her Own Reality Details

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## From Reader Review Discoveries: Frida Kahlo, Painting Her Own Reality for online ebook

### Alex is The Romance Fox says

I had never heard of Frida Kahlo until I visited Mexico and discovered that my family's house in San Angel was in the same square as Diego Rivera's studio, which is now a museum. After visiting Casa Azul, Frida's house in Mexico City, I was totally enthralled by this woman, who in such a short life, filled with so much pain, still managed to have such an extraordinary life and an artist that left an unforgettable legacy through her imagery and writing after her death.

Frida Kahlo Painting Her Own Reality by Christina Burrus is one of those books you will love and keep forever, more so if you're a lover of her art and her life. Beautifully put together, it has illustrations, photographs and some of her paintings and an easy to read story of her life. It's not a full-depth biography, but it does give the reader a taste of her life and art. Her life was filled with a lot of pain, loneliness which is reflected in a lot if not most of her paintings. I loved reading the section of the correspondence between her and her friends.

The one photograph that touched my heart is on page 142 – very moving. This is a book to add to the collection of Frida Kahlo's fans.

#### Quotes by Frida Kahlo

- I paint my own reality. The only thing I know is that I paint because I need to, and I paint whatever passes through my head without any other consideration.
- I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best.
- My painting carries with it the message of pain.
- Painting completed my life.

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### Ylenia says

I'm in loveeeee.

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### Hellie says

For a tiny book this carries a huge amount of information not only about Frida's life and work but also Mexican history and culture. I will definitely think about buying other titles in this series of books.

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### Kay Daniels says

Fantastic book about Frida's life. Lots of photos, Frida's art work and some of her diary entries. Amazing woman. Really looking forward to the V&A exhibition of Frida's clothing and personal artefacts.

## Maria Chiper says

O carte mica care te introduce in lumea Fridei, care-ti trezeste curiozitatea pentru a continua studiul vietii si operei acesteia si care reda expresiv violenta din existenta artistei.

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## Clair says

I was excited to learn more about Frida. However, this book did not focus on her. The author name dropped a lot and credited Frida's success to other people: her father, husband, men who showed her art in their galleries etc. These points are important and interesting but it was done in a way that undermined her achievements. There was Mexican history that gave her story context, good pictures, some interesting quotes, and it was quick. But after reading this book I don't feel like I know Frida. There was a weird focus on her being ugly, the author brought up several of her male lovers for no reason, and talked significantly about Diego Rivera and his work. This is the first Frida Kahlo book I have read. I was expecting to learn about Frida's strength (dealing with: polio, severe hospitalizations, several miscarriages, etc.), wit (her fun sarcastic letters), and to get a better understanding of her art. This book did a good job of giving an overview of her artwork but failed at showing Frida's personality and ability.

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## Gonca Senay says

Frida hep bir efsane... ?ç karart?c? bir hayat hikayesi ama çok sade, güzel yaz?lm??...

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## thy says

definitely a book you take your time with. doesn't give you all the information about frida, but after reading this book you can do your own research and find even more. this book is a good start if you want to learn more about her

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## Gina Sandulescu says

Foarte s?rac? traducerea... Defectuoas? ?i corectura. Rating-ul meu e exagerat de pozitiv ?i vine mai mult din entuziasmul de a avea contact cu texte din coresponden?a ?i jurnalul Fridei. Nu-mi place s? atrag aten?ia asupra chestiilor negative, în general, când vine vorba despre c?r?i, muzic?, filme, orice lucru care m? transfer? în tot soiul de lumi captivante, dac? ceva nu-mi place consider c? acel lucru nu a fost f?cut pentru mine, dar cred c? în cazul de fa?? e necesar? men?ionarea c? astfel de rigiditate în traducere nu merit? încurajat?. Partea bun? e c? avem de-a face totu?i cu o edi?ie veche, de-acum zece ani ?i putem visa c? astfel de gafe nu se mai produc, mai ales când exist? asocieri cu nume notorii, precum Cotidianul ?i editura Univers.

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## Jessica says

My momma bought this little book for my birthday last January, and I sat in bed and read it last week when I wasn't feeling well. It serves as a great starting point into Frida's works and life, but is by no means comprehensive. I think it did a wonderful job of capturing the magic and sadness of her life, and I cannot wait to read more about her!

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## Rebecca Fowell says

This book was a quick read for me and did not quench my thirst for knowledge on Frida. I kept having to go to and fro in the book as a paragraph would be speaking about a painting which was featured in the book earlier rather than along side the text about it. There was quite a few repetition of quotes and the use of the yellow pages in the book; which focused on in-depth analysis of a painting, often broke my train of thought. I did enjoy the number of photos as well as paintings used throughout the book as it helped to give faces to the numerous people Frida met. This book would be perfect for an introduction to Frida's history, but doesn't go into intense detail of all her paintings or her life. It feels more of a 'summary' book, briefly outlining who she was and why she painted.

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## Helen White says

Fantastic little book about Frida Kahlo's life and art. A great introduction to her if you aren't familiar with her - all of her iconic art is here and some of the classic images of Frida herself.

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## Romie says

Frida Kahlo is an artist I've always been fascinated by. I'm fascinated by her her life, by her art, by the way she lived her life and what happened to her. She's an interesting woman, one who went through a lot of things and thought for what she believed in.

This biography was interesting because it summarised quite well Frida's life, but huh does the author actually have a problem with the LGBTQIAP+ community? Once, Frida's neutral clothes were described as 'asexual' and her sexuality was completely erased. It's one thing not to mention at all that Frida was bisexual, but it's another to keep on talking about all her male lovers when it's not needed. If you're going to mention her lovers, why don't you mention as well that, per example, Frida Kahlo and Joséphine Baker were also together at some point? Either you talk about Frida's female and male lovers, or you don't. Don't just hide the truth.

I still want to read more about her, I want to learn more about her art, not just her life, even though both go hand in hand.

3.5

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## **Mireia Bookworm says**

“I paint my reality” just amazing.

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## **Ariel says**

I needed a quiet activity to do for an hour and it randomly popped into my head "I don't know much about Frida! I'll read her wiki page!" One thing led to another and I've now read a biography of her, own her journal, and have a painting of her hanging on my wall. FROM A LITTLE BIT OF BOREDOM TO A LIFE LONG OBSESSION.

After that initial wiki page reading I wanted to get my hands on a book about Frida. I found this one in a bookshop in London and fell in love with it's little size, full colour photographs, and detailed retelling of Frida's life. I couldn't wait to read it and dove right in.. and was so enamoured with her life, with her art that filled the pages of the book, that I read through it in a whirlwind. This isn't a massive tome, it doesn't go into detail about every single painting she ever made, but it gives you a really solid foundation. Because of the huge amount of photographs of Frida, of the places where she lived and visited, and of her work, I really felt immersed in it all. It's a perfect springboard and I'm so excited to continue my education about Frida and her work.

One fact that really excited me, that I'd never heard mention of before, and I'm officially making it my life mission to tell everyone, is that Frida was mixed race! She was born and raised in Mexico, and is very much a Mexican icon, but her father was a white man from Germany. It adds an extra depth to her paintings for me, and really connects me to her even more.

If you want to start learning about Frida, this is a great place to start! I know I'm going to treasure this book for a long time and already look forward to flipping through and reading it again.

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