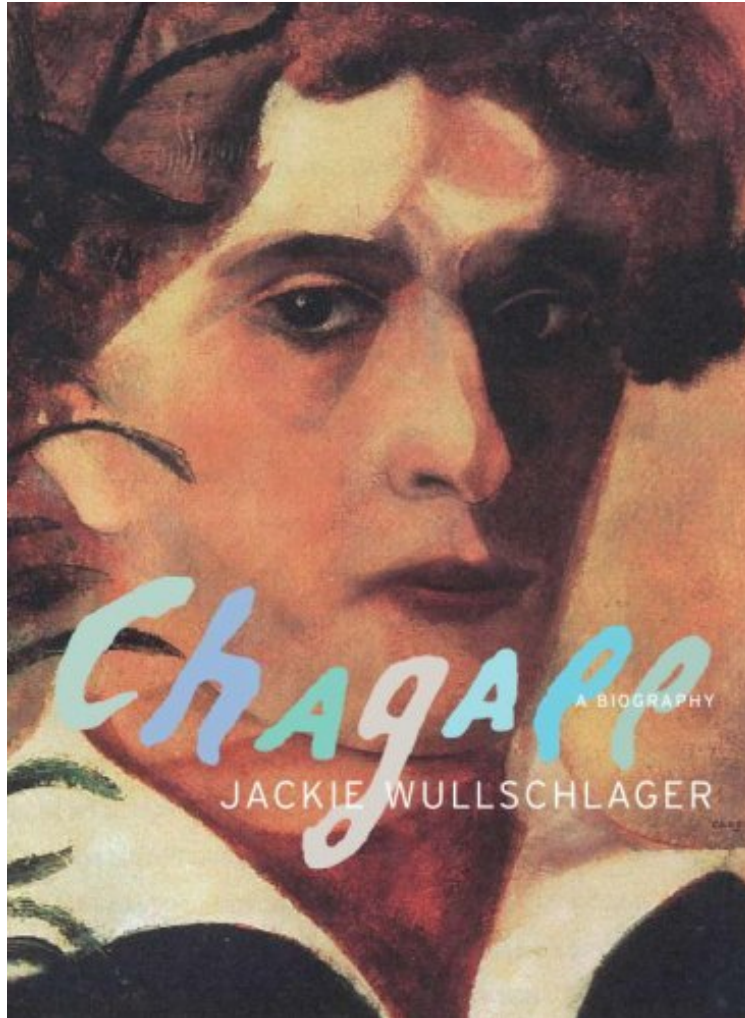


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## Chagall

*Jackie Wullschlager*  
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**Jackie Wullschlager : Chagall** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chagall:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A MASTERPIECE TO EQUAL A MASTERPIECEBy rapelle-toiReceived in perfect condition. 5 Star! First Edition. Jackie Wullschlager has written a masterpiece to complement her subject's masterpiece after masterpiece. An amazing undertaking that reads like a novel. The color reproductions are superb. This is a book that could change your life. Once you meet Chagall you'll never be the same. Thank you. - H3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and richly detailed, but occasionally dullBy Michael SquiresJackie Wullschlager's new biography provides an extraordinary look at the painter's evolution, from a humble Jewish village in Russia, to chaotic St. Petersburg during the revolution, to full flower in Paris and beyond. The depth of detail is astonishing; the illustrations and color plates beautifully illustrate the many stages of Chagall's artistic

development; and Wullschlager dissects Chagall's marriages in loving detail, teasing out the complexities of dependence and power that bound (but also enriched) them. There is a fine early example of Chagall telling a buyer that he didn't price his paintings, then asking Bella to negotiate as the buyer (looking in a mirror) noticed Chagall signalling the price to his wife. Much later it fell to Vava, his third wife, "to be the hard exterior front while Chagall played her soft, helpless companion" (504). He always put his inner creative life first. I like books that are succinct, that use one example or one quotation rather than two or three, and that offer crisp analysis instead of restatement. I skimmed many pages in the book's first half, where the author is finding her direction. Most readers will wish that Knopf had hired a senior editor to go over the book and, especially in the first half, to mark deletions for the author to consider. That said, this biography incisively shows the horrendous dislocations that an artist risks in abandoning his homeland and his religion, and the ways in which nostalgia for the past became one of Chagall's enduring themes even as he broke new ground in Paris and Vence. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What an amazing man and a grand vehicle---the book you delivered in ...By Jim Boardman What an amazing man and a grand vehicle---the book you delivered in fine shape---to present it to me. Thank you.

When Matisse dies, Pablo Picasso remarked in the 1950s, "Chagall will be the only painter left who understands what color really is." As a pioneer of modernism and one of the greatest figurative artists of the twentieth century, Marc Chagall achieved fame and fortune, and over the course of a long career created some of the best-known and most-loved paintings of our time. Yet behind this triumph lay struggle, heartbreak, bitterness, frustration, lost love, exile—and above all the miracle of survival. Born into near poverty in Russia in 1887, the son of a Jewish herring merchant, Chagall fled the repressive "potato-colored" tsarist empire in 1911 for Paris. There he worked alongside Modigliani and Leacuterger in the tumbledown tenement called La Ruche, where "one either died or came out famous." But turmoil lay ahead—war and revolution; a period as an improbable artistic commissar in the young Soviet Union; a difficult existence in Weimar Germany, occupied France, and eventually the United States. Throughout, as Jackie Wullschlager makes plain in this groundbreaking biography, he never ceased giving form on canvas to his dreams, longings, and memories. His subject, more often than not, was the shtetl life of his childhood, the wooden huts and synagogues, the goatherds, rabbis, and violinists—the whole lost world of Eastern European Jewry. Wullschlager brilliantly describes this world and evokes the characters who peopled it: Chagall's passionate, energetic mother, Feiga-Ita; his eccentric fellow painter and teacher Bakst; his clever, intense first wife, Bella; their glamorous daughter, Ida; his tough-minded final companion and wife, Vava; and the colorful, tragic array of artist, actor, and writer friends who perished under the Stalinist regime. Wullschlager explores in detail Chagall's complex relationship with Russia and makes clear the Russian dimension he brought to Western modernism. She shows how, as Andreacuter Breton put it, "under his sole impulse, metaphor made its triumphal entry into modern painting," and helped shape the new surrealist movement. As art critic of the Financial Times, she provides a breadth of knowledge on Chagall's work, and at the same time as an experienced biographer she brings Chagall the man fully to life—ambitious, charming, suspicious, funny, contradictory, dependent, but above all obsessively determined to produce art of singular beauty and emotional depth. Drawing upon hitherto unseen archival material, including numerous letters from the family collection in Paris, and illustrated with nearly two hundred paintings, drawings, and photographs, Chagall is a landmark biography to rank with Hilary Spurling's Matisse and John Richardson's Picasso. From the Hardcover edition.