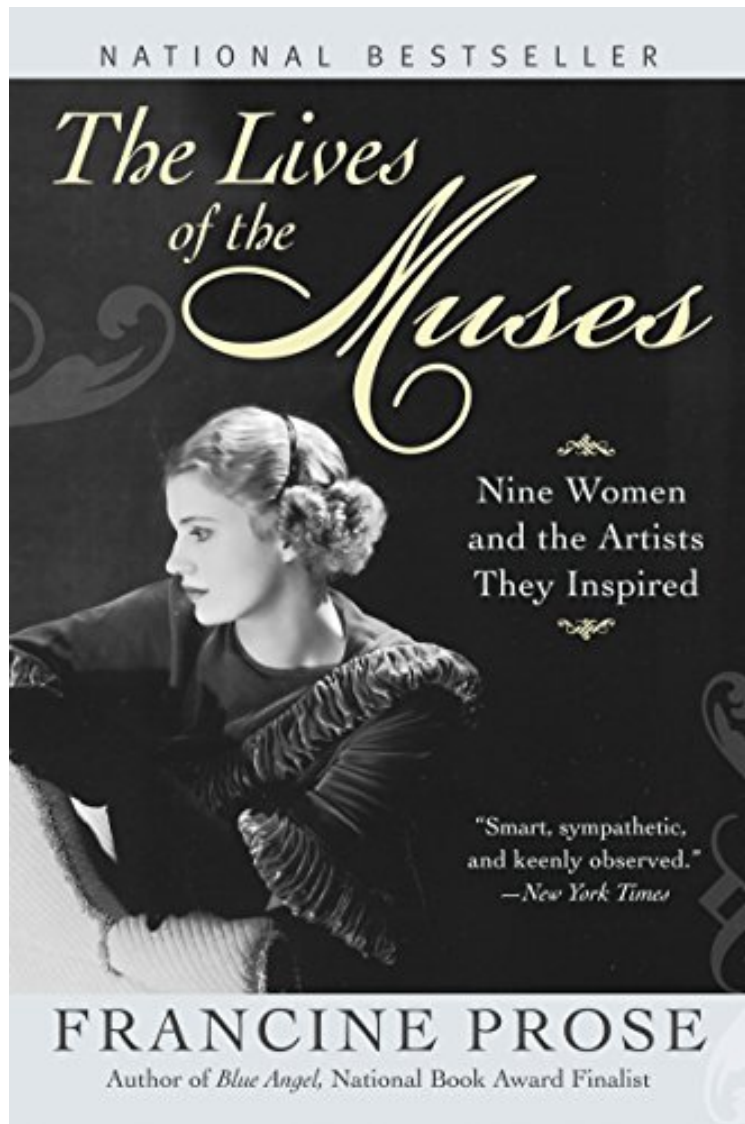


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## The Lives of the Muses: Nine Women the Artists They Inspired

Francine Prose

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**Francine Prose : The Lives of the Muses: Nine Women the Artists They Inspired** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lives of the Muses: Nine Women the Artists They Inspired:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MusesBy Kindle CustomerI entered this book thinking that being a muse, as I have been called, was an honor and a privilege. However during and after reading it, I feel it is best to run quickly in the opposite direction from anyone who projects upon one this fantasy of being inspired by the "ideal woman." It only leads to heartbreak.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cocktail conversation fodderBy Kindle CustomerIf you want to read about the creative process, read her book on Caravaggio. This book was little

stories, little snippets. Interesting like a cocktail conversation. Not profound, but well written. More like biographical essays rather than an exploration of the "wellsprings of creative process". 26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. More Biography than Philosophy By Mike AI almost didnt buy this book. There were mixed reviews and the general tone of the negative reviews were that the book was superficial or possibly inaccurate. Well I bought the book in spite of those warnings. I am very glad I did. To begin with Prose has done an outstanding job of weaving together 9 separate and unique lives. She does not claim to have written the definitive work on artistic influence or motivation. She did not claim to corner the market on thoughts of Eros and Art. What she did was describe nine woman and the artists they inspired. It was clear from her references and asides that she had done research on far more than these women. She freely borrowed from other muses and interests in other relationships and wove together not only nine separate stories but craftily connected them into a thread that takes us from the most simple and reticent muse -- Alice Liddell to a modern woman artist whose own identity and influence is lost in the artist and his in hers, not always in a positive way -- Yoko Ono. I found that Prose walks briskly through each life but also is telling us a greater story. A story of feminine influence and the evolving way women have been viewed as muses, lovers, artists and people. Often I stopped to examine or reexamine an artist or their work. As Prose opens a new semiotic eye on a work, she looks not from the reader's perspective of the work, but from the artist's perspective and intent. Not so much to say what the artist was trying to describe to the viewer, but why he was creating it at all. I can't say if Prose' work is accurate or inaccurate. I dont know enough of these lives. I do know that I have a new perspective on some of the artists and a desire to learn more of these women and their influence. Buy it and read it.

All loved, and were loved by, their artists, and inspired them with an intensity of emotion akin to Eros. In a brilliant, wry, and provocative book, National Book Award finalist Francine Prose explores the complex relationship between the artist and his muse. In so doing, she illuminates with great sensitivity and intelligence the elusive emotional wellsprings of the creative process.