



 Get Print Book

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered

By Dianne Hales



Download



Read Online

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales

Everybody knows her smile, but no one knows her story: Meet the flesh-and-blood woman who became one of the most famous artistic subjects of all time—Mona Lisa.

A genius immortalized her. A French king paid a fortune for her. An emperor coveted her. Every year more than nine million visitors trek to view her portrait in the Louvre. Yet while everyone recognizes her smile, hardly anyone knows her story. “Combining history, whimsical biography, personal travelogue, and love letter to Italy...*Mona Lisa* is an entertaining” (*Publishers Weekly*) book of discovery about the world’s most recognized face. Who was she? Why did the most renowned painter of her time choose her as his model? What became of her? And why does her smile enchant us still?

Dianne Hales, author of *La Bella Lingua*, became obsessed with finding the real Mona Lisa on repeated trips to Florence. In *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered*, she takes readers with her to meet Lisa’s descendants; uncover her family’s long and colorful history; and explore the neighborhoods where she lived as a girl, a wife, and a mother. In the process, we can participate in Lisa’s daily rituals; understand her personal relationships; and see, hear, smell, and taste “her” Florence. Hales brings to life a time poised between the medieval and the modern, a vibrant city bursting into fullest bloom, and a culture that redefined the possibilities of man—and of woman.

Mona Lisa is “a readable and affectionate my-search-for-story for art lovers and anyone interested in glorious and gory Florence in the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries, and in the divine Leonardo in particular...Hales’s assiduous research has made it possible for us to know Mona Lisa just a bit, enough to wonder if this otherwise ordinary Florentine housewife could ever have imagined her portrait enchanting millions for centuries” (USATODAY.com).



[Download Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered ...pdf](#)

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered

By Dianne Hales

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales

Everybody knows her smile, but no one knows her story: Meet the flesh-and-blood woman who became one of the most famous artistic subjects of all time—Mona Lisa.

A genius immortalized her. A French king paid a fortune for her. An emperor coveted her. Every year more than nine million visitors trek to view her portrait in the Louvre. Yet while everyone recognizes her smile, hardly anyone knows her story. “Combining history, whimsical biography, personal travelogue, and love letter to Italy...*Mona Lisa* is an entertaining” (*Publishers Weekly*) book of discovery about the world’s most recognized face. Who was she? Why did the most renowned painter of her time choose her as his model? What became of her? And why does her smile enchant us still?

Dianne Hales, author of *La Bella Lingua*, became obsessed with finding the real Mona Lisa on repeated trips to Florence. In *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered*, she takes readers with her to meet Lisa’s descendants; uncover her family’s long and colorful history; and explore the neighborhoods where she lived as a girl, a wife, and a mother. In the process, we can participate in Lisa’s daily rituals; understand her personal relationships; and see, hear, smell, and taste “her” Florence. Hales brings to life a time poised between the medieval and the modern, a vibrant city bursting into fullest bloom, and a culture that redefined the possibilities of man—and of woman.

Mona Lisa is “a readable and affectionate my-search-for-story for art lovers and anyone interested in glorious and gory Florence in the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries, and in the divine Leonardo in particular...Hales’s assiduous research has made it possible for us to know Mona Lisa just a bit, enough to wonder if this otherwise ordinary Florentine housewife could ever have imagined her portrait enchanting millions for centuries” (USATODAY.com).

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #847456 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-08-18
- Released on: 2015-08-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.37" h x .80" w x 5.50" l, .79 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

 [Download Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Biography, history, and memoir are woven together in Hales' (*La Bella Lingua*, 2009) lyrical biography of Lisa Gherardini, the *donna vera* (real woman) captured in Leonardo da Vinci's early sixteenth-century masterpiece, *Mona Lisa*. Hales paints a vivid history of the dramatic, often violent Renaissance Florence in which Gherardini lived: a town populated with scheming politicians, warring religious factions, and artists boasting rock-star popularity. Intertwined with this tale is Gherardini's personal biography as a daughter, a merchant's wife, a devoted mother, and a family matriarch—a story that provides counterpoint to the epic, male-dominated history of the age. The verifiable facts of Gherardini's life are scarce, so Hales leans heavily on "informed imagination," delving deeply into the customs, rituals, and relationships that governed women's lives in Renaissance Italy. Throughout the book, she scours archives, interrogates scholars, and walks the streets of Florence, seeking traces of Gherardini in detail and in spirit. These first-person accounts reveal the author's deep kinship with Gherardini, and her quest endows human subjectivity to one of art history's greatest icons. --Lindsay Bosch

Review

"I'm enthralled by every page of Dianne Hales's *Mona Lisa*. The mysteries of the painting remain, but through Hales's portraits of the people and her skilled rendering of customs, politics, and daily habits of the time, you come to know the painting in profound new ways. The great pleasure of her prose brings Lisa Gherardini's world to vivid life. Anyone who loves art and Italy—and who doesn't—will adore this book. (Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *Under Magnolia*)

"This is cultural history that reads like a detective novel as Dianne Hales tracks down the real woman behind one of the world's most famous and enigmatic faces. Expertly sleuthing her way through the treasure troves of archives and palazzos, she offers her own fascinating portrait not just of Lisa Gherardini but also of the vibrant Renaissance world that nurtured both Lisa and Leonardo's painting." (Ross King, author of *Brunelleschi's Dome* and *Leonardo and The Last Supper*)

"Biography, history, and memoir are woven together in Hales' lyrical biography of Lisa Gherardini...her quest endows human subjectivity to one of art history's greatest icons." (*Booklist*)

"Engaging...a rich tapestry of family life, mercantile society, politics, and artistic development...enthraling." (*BookPage*)

"Veteran journalist Dianne Hales shares with us the tumultuous lives of both Gherardini and the artist who immortalized her, and brings us along on the travels of a work of art for which love and esteem have increased markedly over the centuries." (*New York Post*)

"A readable and affectionate my-search-for-story for art lovers and anyone interested in glorious and gory Florence in the 15th- to 16th centuries, and in the divine Leonardo in particular...Hales' assiduous research has made it possible for us to know *Mona Lisa* just a bit, enough to wonder if this otherwise ordinary Florentine housewife could ever have imagined her portrait enchanting millions for centuries." (*USAToday.com*)

"Now, thanks to meticulous research, Hales' biography-memoir-history lesson brings to life Lisa Gherardini (1479-1542), the unforgettable face behind Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*." (*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*)

"Combining history, whimsical biography, personal travelogue, and love letter to Italy...an accessible, vivid examination of women's lives in Florence of the period....Entertaining." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"It's a joy to follow Dianne Hales' fascinating exploration into what's behind the world's most famous smile—an enchanting mix of fascinating history and passion-filled memoir." (Susan Van Allen, author of *100 Places in Italy Every Woman Should Go*)

About the Author

Dianne Hales is a prize-winning, widely published journalist and author. The President of Italy awarded her an honorary knighthood in recognition of her bestselling book, *La Bella Lingua*. Her other works include *Just Like a Woman*; *Caring for the Mind*; and the leading college health textbook, *An Invitation to Health*. She has served as a contributing editor for *Parade*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Working Mother*, and *American Health* and has written for many national publications, including *Family Circle*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The New York Times*, and *Woman's Day*. She lives with her family in the San Francisco Bay area.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Masterson:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children till adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered* was making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The guide *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to become your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered*. You never really feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

Ollie Johnson:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered*.

Cheryl Thornton:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got scholars? We believe that that issue was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person similar to reading or as examining become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important along with book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update regarding something by book. Many kinds of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is niagra *Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered*.

Brian Smith:

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information from your book. Book is created or printed or illustrated from each source in which filled update of news. Within this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just in search of the Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered when you desired it?

**Download and Read Online Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By
Dianne Hales #4DRH6XAVPZ8**

Read Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales for online ebook

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales books to read online.

Online Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales ebook PDF download

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales Doc

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales Mobipocket

Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered By Dianne Hales EPub