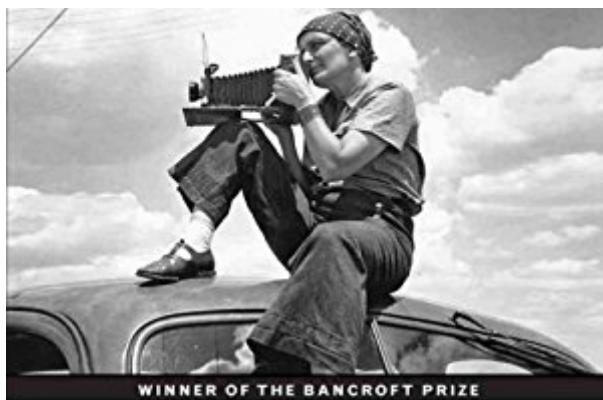


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Dorothea Lange: A Life Beyond Limits



DOROTHEA LANGE
A LIFE BEYOND LIMITS
LINDA GORDON



Synopsis

Winner of the 2010 Bancroft Prize and finalist for the 2009 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Biography: The definitive biography of a heroic chronicler of America's Depression and one of the 20th century's greatest photographers. We all know Dorothea Lange's iconic photos - the Migrant Mother holding her child, the shoeless children of the Dust Bowl - but now renowned American historian Linda Gordon brings them to three-dimensional life in this groundbreaking exploration of Lange's transformation into a documentarist. Using Lange's life to anchor a moving social history of 20th-century America, Gordon masterfully re-creates bohemian San Francisco, the Depression, and the Japanese-American internment camps. Gordon has written a sparkling, fast-moving story that testifies to her status as one of the most gifted historians of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I have not completely finished this book, I couldn't wait to write a review. Linda Gordon has done a masterful job of merging history, biography and art in a most enjoyable book. I can't put it down! Admittedly, I've always admired Dorothea Lange's photographs, but I had only an inkling as to how complicated her life was, and how entwined it was with San Francisco's Bohemian art world. Gordon's writing style is a joy and her meticulous research is obvious. Heretofore a reader has had a choice to either enjoy Lange's photographs, or tolerate what was written about her. Gordon's biography of Lange combines Lange's best photos (and many lesser known ones) with a strong,

informative, thoroughly enjoyable and fast paced text. I highly recommend this book, especially in conjunction with Lange's photos and her own words in "Daring to Look: Lange's Photos and Field Notes." Thank you Ms. Gordon, a book long overdue!

This book is absolutely fascinating and filled with a plethora of information that I didn't know. One would think that the biography of a photographer could be interesting, but this book greatly exceeds "interesting". It is way more than a biography. It is a book of the times and a book that is nearly impossible to put down. One of those books where you let the phone go to voice mail because you don't want to stop reading it! It is accompanied by a trove of photographs, but after reading it, you wish that it included nearly every photo she ever took. You will not only have great appreciation for the legacy that she left but also for the incredibly difficult times that our country and its people went through.

It's beneficial to every photographer to learn by studying the works of the masters. Dorothea Lange is one of the greats. A wonderful book detailing her life and her passion for capturing the lives of those who lived through the Great Depression.

In-depth book about an amazing woman. Set against the backdrop of what was going on in the art world and politically at the time she was photographing.

Our heroine was for the most part a government paid documentary photographer of the 1930's depression; in particular, farm workers. Her images became the public's memory of the depression and dust bowl catastrophes. One might not like her--her life was her work with the side dishes of husbands and family. However, one must admire her fortitude as she confronts a masculine world in government, art and business and struggles with a crippled leg from polio, a childhood which early on lacked a father and a debilitating illness during her last years. Certainly not your best friend or mother--but one tough tomato. The book could use some judicious editing--one gets the point--one knows she's good. Her life's events are placed into well-researched historical context. The end notes are excellent--many primary sources. Even with all the photos, one wants more. Sometimes tedious reading--the 1930's is not my favorite era.

I loved getting to know Dorothea from a different angle although I felt it dragged a bit about setting up her life before the fsa. Perhaps that was necessary but I found myself wanting to skip a bit of that

and get to the rest of her life. I would recommend it!

Beautiful book. Interesting life.

Great read!

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