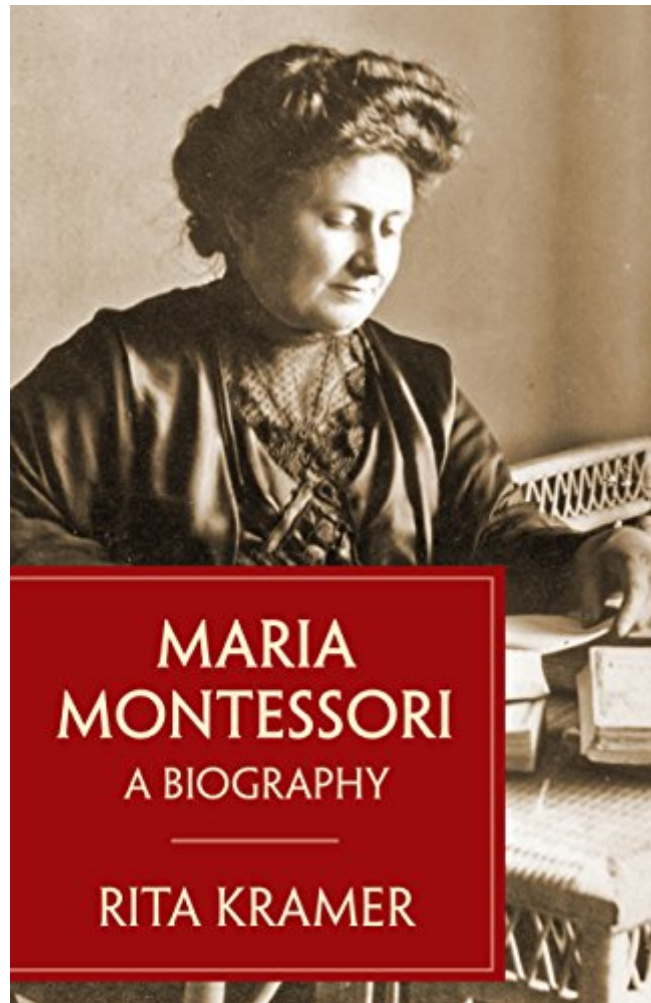




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Maria Montessori: A Biography



Synopsis

"Highly recommended for educators, parents, and moderate feminists who seek inspiration from one of the most accomplished women of this or any other age." —Publishers Weekly

The definitive biography of Maria Montessori—physician, feminist, social reformer, educator, and one of the most admired, influential, and controversial women of the twentieth century. Maria Montessori effected a worldwide revolution in the classroom. She developed a new method of educating the young and inspired a movement that carried it into every corner of the world. This is the story of the woman behind the public figure—her accomplishments, her ideas, and her passions. Montessori broke the mold imposed on women in the nineteenth century and forged a new one, first for herself and eventually for those who came after her. Against formidable odds she became the first woman to graduate from the medical school of the University of Rome and then devoted herself to the condition of children considered uneducable at the time. She developed a teaching method that enabled them to do as well as normal children, a method which then led her to found a new kind of school—the Casa dei Bambini, or House of Children—which gained her worldwide fame and still pervades classrooms wherever young children learn. This biography is not only the story of a groundbreaking feminist but a vital chapter in the history of education.

Book Information

File Size: 6208 KB

Print Length: 410 pages

Publisher: Diversion Books (May 21, 2017)

Publication Date: May 21, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0728GSK31

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #231,749 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #56

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Customer Reviews

This is a unique book!Some people collect data for criticizing, or pointing out the facts that can destroy or reinforce the legend of an author. However, Rita Kramer has notable evidences that may take you at the point in which you can discover a woman that has made the human being rethought the role of the women in our society, and the balance that it implies inside and outside the family regarding children and their growth; all of that while putting some distance between her own beliefs and the real facts, so you can see and contextualize Dr.Montessori's work and life.This is a professional work that should be in every library, and should be spread in every corner of the world. There are some reasons for endorsing this book, in part, supported by the material this book presents, and the facts Rita Kramer discusses all over the book, such as the claim that the figure of Montessori remained several years in being rediscovered, specially in the States, even though there were many publications and notes written in several newspapers by the time Montessori arrived in 1913, as well as many others that has come to this biography from every country Montessori visited, and that were collected carefully by Rita Kramer and the Montessori family to whom this biographer has had personal contact. Second because many of her ideas are foundational ideas, thus they have been the foundation of several schools and severals methods. Finally because this book introduces a woman that has developed a tenacious will that may inspire not only teachers, but also students and families across the world. If you ask me, this is a unique book that only can be described and defined by the ancient Greek word and concept of BIOS.

This is one of the only paperback books that I have bought as a new book. Although I normally buy used books, the Book is worth full price because of the research and development.I greatly admire Montessori's 'way of life' but I discarded the Montessori Biography by Standing because of his egocentric style. Miss Kramer is more objective. However, I do have disagreements with some of her assessments, but the facts are there for anyone to judge; and I consider the disagreements minor in comparison to the tremendous Book. Miss Kramer shows layers that I could not find in other material. I also found that I could deduce many facts from the material. Reading it was like finding the missing links from the other books that I had read about Montessori.By reading Montessori's own work, I always felt that she concealed many of her conflicts. That was until Miss Kramer answered my questions. As if she had asked the same questions as I did.

Great biography a classic woman!!!

This is a very interesting biography. I was told that it is the definitive biography for Montessori. There are many interesting things to learn that most people don't know about. For example, Dr. Montessori was friends with the Queen of Italy.

Exactly as expected.

My daughter joined a Montessori school when she was two and a half, and I have closely observed her progress and the Montessori pedagogy since then. I continue to be amazed at the genius of this woman, the hurdles that she had to endure, the strength of her character, and the resiliency and power of her message. I won't go into details on the actual pedagogy, but I will say that I am so impressed with this educational system that I have seriously consider dropping out of my PhD program at Brandeis and pursuing a Montessorian education as a teacher. The quality of education is astounding beyond words... This book helped me acquire a better understanding of Maria Montessori, not just her methods, but her approach to education as rooted in the historical and cultural milieu of her times. Some of the scenes stand out in my mind - when she became the first woman physician in Italy... when her poor ghetto children learned good manners and how to write by the age of 4, so much so that the uber wealthy asked Maria to open a school for their children, so that they could also be as smart as the ghetto kids...Kramer's book is truly excellent. Her research is meticulous, highly detailed, and informative. As a PhD student, I recognize good research when I see it. I even emailed the author to thank her for this phenomenal book, which is something I had never done before.I should say that I particularly enjoyed the first half of the book or so - the remainder got a bit tedious (with all those international conferences and such) (No fault of the author, btw). There were a few typos in the book, but no other major flaw.I think anyone who's seriously interested in reforming our educational system should read this book.

I read this book years ago and couldn't put it down--it brought Maria Montessori to life for me. It is a well-written, well re-searched book and I have referred to it so often that it is falling apart. If you are a Montessori teacher or just want to know about Maria Montessori, this book is a must-have.

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