



Art on Fire

Hilary Sloin

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Art on Fire is the apparent biography of subversive painter Francesca deSilva, the founding foremother of "pseudorealism," who lived hard and died young. But in the tradition of Vladimir Nabokov's acclaimed novel *Pale Fire*, it's a fiction from start to finish. It opens with Francesca's early life. We learn about her childhood love, the chess genius Lisa Sinsong, as well as her rivalry with her brilliant sister Isabella, who publishes an acclaimed volume of poetry at the age of twelve. She compensates for the failings of her less than attentive parents by turning to her grandmother who is loyal and adoring until she learns Francesca is a lesbian, when she rejects her. Francesca flees to a ramshackle cabin in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, working weekends at the flea market. She breaks into the gloomy basement of a house, where she begins her life as a painter. Much to her confusion and even dismay, fame comes quickly.

Interspersed with Francesca's narrative are thirteen critical "essays" on the paintings of Francesca deSilva by critics, academics, and psychologists—essays that are razor-sharp satires on art, lesbian life, and the academic world, puncturing pretentiousness with every paragraph. *Art on Fire* is a darkly comic, pitch-perfect, and fearless satire on the very art of biography itself.

Art on Fire is the latest winner of the Bywater Prize for Fiction and was a finalist for the Heekin Foundation Award, the Dana Awards, and the Story Oaks Prize. It was mistakenly awarded the nonfiction prize in the Amherst Book and Plow Competition.

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Carol Pyles:

This book untitled Art on Fire to be one of several books which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you to past this book from your list.

Sam Richey:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Art on Fire, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

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