



## Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe

*Dawn Tripp*

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**Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe** Dawn Tripp

**Georgia O'Keeffe, her love affair with photographer Alfred Stieglitz, and her quest to become an independent artist come to life in this sensuous and wonderfully written novel, a dazzling departure into historical fiction by the acclaimed novelist Dawn Tripp.**

In 1916, Georgia O'Keeffe is a young, unknown art teacher when she travels to New York to meet Stieglitz, the famed photographer and art dealer, who has discovered O'Keeffe's work and exhibits it in his gallery. Their connection is instantaneous. O'Keeffe is quickly drawn into Stieglitz's sophisticated world, becoming both his mistress and muse, as their attraction deepens into an intense and tempestuous relationship and his photographs of her, both clothed and nude, create a sensation. Yet as her own creative force develops, Georgia begins to push back against what the world is saying about her and her art. And soon she must make difficult choices to live a life she believes in.

## **Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe Details**

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Author : Dawn Tripp

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## From Reader Review Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe for online ebook

### Marita says

I'm an admirer of artist Georgia O'Keeffe's work, but this novel was a disappointment. It focuses on her relationship with Alfred Stieglitz, which was no doubt important to O'Keeffe, but there is just too much romance and little else.

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### Esil says

I don't usually decide whether I like a book based on how I feel about the characters -- in fact, I've liked plenty of novels depicting pretty nasty, grouchy, flawed or despicable characters. And, although I can be skeptical, I've liked plenty of novels based on true historical figures -- more recently Circling the Sun, and Vanessa and Her Sister for example. And I have so much respect for my GR friends Elyse, Angela and Diane who loved this book. But I just can't muster much enthusiasm for Georgia, a novel based on Georgia O'Keefe and Alfred Stieglitz's lives and relationship. I liked Georgia, but I didn't like Stieglitz and I just couldn't get my head around why she was attracted to him in the first place. I feel like the author was pushing a sense that Stieglitz was a romantic albeit flawed character. I didn't see the romance. I just saw a self centred egotist. I loved Georgia's iconoclastic spirit and her driven sense of creativity, but I couldn't understand her attraction to Stieglitz. And why when his flaws started to really show through, she kept going back and remained attached to him until the end -- although in the end they were mostly apart. I know that what's depicted is part of a reality -- it would likely have been impossible for O'Keefe to gain any recognition on her own at the time without her connection to Stieglitz, but the relationship grated on me. I know many will love this novel, but I had trouble getting past my frustrations with Stieglitz and their relationship. Again, what I did like is O'Keefe's uniqueness and how her sense of independence shines through in the end. What I also loved is that this book did send me to the internet to look at many of O'Keefe's absolutely luscious paintings. Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

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### Lyn says

Beautiful. Told in language that is sensual and earnest.

Author Dawn Tripp delivers a biography of an artist, really the relationship between two artists, one a revolutionary abstract artist and the other a world-renowned photographer, their affair and decades long relationship.

Told with warmth and depth, with an eye towards the humanity of Georgia O'Keefe, her art, and the complexity of the dynamic between her and her mentor, lover and husband Alfred Stieglitz. Some of the most provocative scenes in the book are of Stieglitz's photography of Georgia and how this sometimes erotic posing sparks the raw emotions between them. Though Tripp spends considerable time portraying the complicated arrangement of the marriage, she is careful to always be true to the lasting image of O'Keefe as lone and somber, a serious student, and a strident worker towards her rare artistic vision.

Told as an elderly O'Keefe looks back from the desert to the beginnings of her career as an art teacher in Texas, to her discovery by Stieglitz, the development of their correspondence and later their affair. Tripp narrates from the first person perspective of O'Keefe, who describes in frank and openly candid terms the story of her developing art career and how it evolves along with her relationship with Stieglitz.

O'Keefe's story is the story of an artist. Tripp uses language and tone that is conducive to a greater understanding of what inspired and what moved the pioneer in American art. Central to the story is the relationship between O'Keefe and Stieglitz and Tripp provides the heat and passion of the liaison while remaining true to the relevance of what the association meant to both. But ultimately this is about Georgia, "fiercely alone" and "a symbol of the American West, reclusive, self reliant" and the creator of her own place in American history.

This is a satisfying, well-researched and well-written biography of an iconic American artist and a glimpse into her world. I recommend it.

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### **Book Riot Community says**

This is Tripp's richly imagined take on the famous painter Georgia O'Keefe, and her love affair with the photographer Alfred Stieglitz. Shortly after meeting, Stieglitz began showing O'Keefe's art in his gallery, and soon after that, they were lovers. This is the story of Georgia as artist and mistress, and one of the most fascinating relationships in the history of art. Tripp has painted a beautiful love story.

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<http://bookriot.com/category/all-the-...>

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### **Ann Marie (Lit•Wit•Wine•Dine) says**

Wow. Dawn Tripp can write!

"Here I am again. Held down, held back, in a power struggle with some arrogant man, his ego and incompetence that has nothing to do with my art. It's like they're all together in some maddening conspiracy to make me good enough, but not good enough to topple them."

Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe is a beautifully written account of Georgia O'Keefe's life. As a work of historical fiction, it's all it should be. The settings, from Lake George to Taos are vividly rendered. The research is obviously there. The real beauty, though, is the way the characters become known to us. I think it must be very difficult to make a reader feel so intimately connected to the characters; especially if the characters are historical figures with bios that can be read all over the internet.

Georgia's life with Stieglitz went from pillar to post. He was her nurturing mentor and earliest fan. She was the stability and loving home he needed. Though, at times, I was frustrated, saddened, and even enraged at his man/boy antics, it was very clear that they shared a very deep connection. She gave up so much to be

with him. Or did she? What would her life, both personal and professional, have been like without him? Though we like to think the times are so very different now, women continue with many of these struggles in an effort to balance everything we need and want in our lives. We probably always will. While I loved Georgia for her strength, creativity, and perseverance, I was most impressed with Georgia's maturity and wisdom:

"... despite the fact that he can still make me so angry, in the end he is just a man whose sunlight is behind him."

I love discovering an author, previously unknown to me, whose next book I'm already looking forward to.

My rating: 4.75 stars

[www.litwitwineanddine.com](http://www.litwitwineanddine.com)

Thank you to Random House Publishing, via NetGalley, for providing me with a free ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Linda says**

I wish to thank NetGalley, Random House Publishing, and Dawn Tripp for an Advanced copy of Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe. This has been a memorable opportunity.

Where does one begin in adequately defining Georgia O'Keeffe? I was fortunate enough to have viewed some of her original works here in San Antonio some time ago in a special exhibition. Breathless is how it left me and breathless is how Dawn Tripp's book has left me.

I await the hardcopy of this book so that I can underline, circle, and highlight the passages so eloquently written by Tripp. Her prose is to be savored word by word, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph. I can't imagine anyone else capable of revealing the passionate zeal of this remarkable woman, this remarkable artist.

Although a work of fiction, Dawn Tripp tells the story of the renowned photographer, Alfred Stieglitz, and the prolific artist, Georgia O'Keeffe. Their lives intermingle in the juxtaposition of their sensual attraction, their deep-seeded relationship, their union of the artistic eye. Stieglitz found a purity of vision within O'Keeffe and O'Keeffe found a strength and continuity in spite of Stieglitz. Theirs was a goblet of nirvana and a goblet of poison from the well.

Tripp also threads her story with the sobering effects of history, war, politics, women's vote on the world of art. The boldness of thought and the fearless self-expression brought about abstraction and expressionism. It was a time of breaking through archaic barriers. And O'Keeffe did this mightily through her amazing work.

We see that every previous life experience from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, to Texas, to Maine, to New York, to New Mexico put notches in the stirrup for Georgia. We can neither deny who we once were or who we are meant to be. She became more resilient because of these deep-grained notches.

Dawn Tripp paints her own portrait of Georgia with the brushstrokes of her stellar words....words that I cast to memory and words that won't soon be forgotten.

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### **Elyse says**

UPDATE: This wonderful book is released today in stores..."February 9th". I want a copy myself! The spirit is 'overflowing' .....gorgeous writing....incredible story! Lovely read!!!!

I had tears in my eyes by the end of the book. I just finished reading this seconds ago.

I still have a painting by Georgia O'Keefe and I was in Santa Fe during one of her art festivals. Her paintings are gorgeous.

Yet, I knew nothing about what I read in these pages....divided into 5 parts....

I was completely enraptured .....equally with the author Dawn Tripp ---

because I realize the range of emotions I was feeling came through her ... ( her writing).

Up until today ...I simply thought Georgia O'Keefe's art was extraordinary....

but now a window has been opened ... ( I can't close it now) ..it too late.

I'm not sure I needed to know some of the things I learned... ( yet I surprised myself how hungry I was to know everything - and more)

The beauty, complexity, the desires, the anger, regret, and the joy....[thank heavens for the joy], of both these two gifted souls ...O'Keefe & Stieglitz...were fascinating to read about!

Why my tears?

I'm a little envious of their greatness .. their passion .. The life they lived ... ( oh, they had some struggles - tragedies- both of them- but mostly I saw two people's lives

that sincerely -passionately loved sex with each other --

I saw a man love a woman just about as real & wonderful as any woman would ever want.

I saw a woman who was faithful to her instincts and impulses that carried her in the direction of excellence that she most desired and valued.

AND THAT's ....F^\*king inspiring!!!! .....

Love - art- sex- breathtaking beauty.....It was an honor to read about these two eccentric-luscious human beings.

"The evening star, unearthly, and the feeling, to be enthralled by nothingness. The sky, so wonderful and big, I breathe it in so deeply. I lie there in the cold quiet, a small thought moving at the edges of my mind -- the possibility that he is like open space, vast like these plains, this night, vast enough it seems sometimes to hold me."

Love this author, \*Dawn Tripp\*, and would like to read other books she has written. I could have pick pages of lovely quotes. She wrote like a painter herself. Her words came alive -- and it was a joy to imagine Georgia painting - picking a color, then painting not from what she saw, but from the essence that moved her.

Thank You Random House Publishing, Netgalley, and Dawn Tripp

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### **Dianne says**

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and Random House Publishing. Thanks to NetGalley and Random House.

“Georgia,” a work of historical fiction, is based on the life of Georgia O’Keeffe, the iconoclastic American painter. The book spans the course of her life, but primarily focuses on those years she spent in a relationship with her eventual husband, famed photographer Arthur Stieglitz. The book is narrated by Georgia, but I struggled to connect with her. I felt curiously detached and even somewhat bored as I followed her story. For me, the high point was Georgia’s description of her painting, her love of color and what she saw when she painted – the form, the lines, the abstractions. She is one of my very favorite artists, so I was a little surprised and disappointed that she came across as so colorless herself.

The author, Dawn Tripp, is talented but her style of writing seemed somewhat cold and clinical. I never warmed up to Georgia or felt that I understood her at all.

In sum, I was a bit disappointed. Probably a 2.5, but rounding up to a 3 for the lovely passages around the physical environment and Georgia’s interpretation of that environment onto her canvases.

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### **Candi says**

3 stars

I was thrilled to find out I had won a copy of this work of historical fiction that depicts the life of artist Georgia O’Keeffe. The cover itself is quite stunning and reminded me of the beauty of her paintings which I have not had the pleasure of viewing in quite some time. In fact, what captured my attention the most throughout this book were the beautiful visual images that author Dawn Tripp was able to evoke. I became immersed in her descriptions of Georgia’s art, the luxurious greenery of the woods and the allure of Lake George, and the vast openness of the Southwest landscape. However, I struggled with my connection to the story of Georgia’s personal and volatile relationship with the renowned photographer Alfred Stieglitz. I wanted to get inside Georgia’s mind and understand who she truly was as an artist and a woman in her own right. But, I felt that my intimacy with her only came through her own attachment to Stieglitz. I understood her hopes and dreams only through how they were either realized or frustrated through his influence. Furthermore, I did not like this man. I can’t decide if he really loved Georgia or simply loved just the “idea” of her. I felt as if Georgia shined with the greatest brilliance when not beneath Stieglitz’s shadow. And yet, would she have achieved such success without him? I can’t answer that question, but the independent woman in me would like to think so.

I would like to thank Random House and Goodreads for sending me a free copy through a FirstReads giveaway in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Elizabeth says**

I enjoyed this. I'm restless as we head into the final days of our temporary housing and this provided a much needed diversion from all things moving. Georgia O'Keeffe has always fascinated me. Her art, her individualism, her personal life, but mostly her separateness. This fictionalized account of her life does a sublime job of telling her story. Well-written, well-researched, and peppered throughout with actual events from her life. Her relationship with Alfred Stieglitz defines much of her adult life and her struggle to remain true to her art. She succeeds but it is not without damage and this novel touches on it all. Their marriage, **their art**, their friendships, **their art**, the affairs, **their art**. It kept me busy looking up Stieglitz's photographs and O'Keeffe's paintings. Their letters were epic. Their relationship complicated. Stieglitz manages her career and decides which paintings to exhibit. Though she dislikes his control she is unable to put an end to it. He strays. She is gutted. She outlives him by something like forty years and it is then that she is finally out from under his influence. I wish there was more of the novel dedicated to that period in her life because, you know, *artistic freedom*. She thrived in New Mexico until her death in 1996.

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## **Lori says**

I will start by saying that I don't know that I can write a review of this novel that will do justice to the brilliance that lies within its pages. I won't pretend to be any kind of art expert... or even an enthusiast, but after reading this I have adopted a new found appreciation for the process of creating it. 'This is not a love story' is stated solemnly in the beginning of this novel... and on some level this is true. This is not a traditional love story. This is a story of the most raw kind of love... the love between a woman, the world she sees around her and the passion she puts into every brushstroke she places on canvas. Tripp's writing in this novel is art in itself. I have never read a novel as beautifully written. A truly magnificent novel. I can not praise this novel enough... 5 brilliantly shining stars.

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## **Diane S ? says**

4.5 My last book of the year, my last review and it was a fantastic read. One of the best books about an artist that I have read in several years. Georgia O'Keefe, love her paintings but never knew much about her as a person. In this book Tripp, does an amazing and thorough job fleshing out the woman and showing us her struggles as an artist. Her husband Stieglitz and their relationship, what kept them connected and what separated them. Credited with the discovery of O'Keefe, he was already a very successful photographer in his own right. Their relationship was passionate, many sex scenes in the beginning of the novel can attest to this and alternately contentious as O'Keefe fought to acquire an identity as an artist separate from his.

Beautifully written, some of the phrases are just breathtaking, many I read more than once. We learn O'Keefe hopes and dreams, what made her who she is, her disappointments and her joys. We follow her from her first meeting with her husband, to her later years in Taos. Through her changing art forms and her visions, where they came from, where she wanted to take them. Her past life is related in O'Keefe's own thoughts but lightly touched on.

The authors note explains her sources as well as how she became interested in O'Keefe herself. Spent much

time on Wiki looking up the various pieces mentioned as well as the photographs taken by her husband.

What an amazing woman, what an amazing full life. Tripp really bought this artist to life for me, as a creator and as a woman. Stunning.

ARC from publisher.

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### **?Karen says**

4.5 stars

Out of all my books read in 2015, this one has my #1 favorite cover, so gorgeous, especially for an ARC. (The finished book actually comes out 3/29/16.) I could look at that beautiful flower all day. It's difficult at times, though, to read *descriptions* of colors and flowers and paintings, without having the finished artwork in front of you for reference. So I did a lot of Googling. I wonder if the finished book will include some of her pieces; I do think it would add so much. O'Keeffe was an amazingly talented artist. I'm not crazy about her skulls, but underneath those skulls and in her other paintings I see nature in all its glory.

Here we see what was beneath O'Keeffe's own surface, what made her become what she was. Much of it can be attributed to Alfred Stieglitz, who discovered her and became her mentor, lover, and husband. They shared their passion for each other and their art. Throughout their relationship, though, she fought to have others see her art for itself, for women as individuals and not as extensions of anyone else, not what Stieglitz or art critics wanted to read into it. The writing was superb and the storyline interesting, although it did feel at times repetitive as it recounted her yearly treks from NYC to Lake George and back again, until she and her art finally discovered the Taos area, where she was reborn and then spent half her time there painting in solitude.

Have been a fan of hers for a long time, so reading this ARC was a special gift. The final chapter was itself a lovely piece of art, a masterpiece, given us by the author and it almost brought me to tears. Much thanks to LibraryThing!

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### **Angela M says**

I'm always a little skeptical when I read a fictional account of a real person. I can't help but wonder how much of what they say and do in the story is truly reflective of who they were. How much has the author really delved into their lives and just how much is fiction? Dawn Tripp in this truly amazing fictional biography of Georgia O'Keeffe tells us how she "came to O'Keeffe's story through her art." She saw an exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art and wondered why the artist was not recognized for the powerful and beautiful abstract paintings during her lifetime. While the author tells us that she was inspired by real events and letters, she goes on to tell us that the letters and conversations in the novel are invented. It is evident, though, that this is extremely well researched and the author demonstrates a real connection with O'Keeffe. I felt so comfortable that this was a pretty realistic rendering even though I didn't know anything about O'Keeffe's life and was familiar with her only through her beautiful, beautiful flowers. It felt like a real memoir, an intimate look at her life. Before getting too far in I had to see the landscapes and the abstracts so of course I stopped to find the images online. Awestruck!

This is the story of O'Keeffe's life and emergence as an artist and her relationship with Alfred Stieglitz, a photographer and artist in his own right. Their relationship is electric from the moment they began to correspond and more so when they meet. They are immediately drawn to each other through an understanding of the art and oh yes, the physical electricity! There is an intensity in their art as well as their love for each other, a tension between their passion for each other and their passion for their own work, between his control of her art and her desire for independence as an artist.

As their relationship progresses, from lovers to husband and wife, the novel moves from New York City to time spent at Lake George and to Taos, NM, the place where O'Keeffe truly becomes the artist she wants to be. It is in these movements between places that we see O'Keeffe's creative spirit and how it is tied to feeling. The way her art is viewed by critics as being feminine and how she becomes defined by Stieglitz's photographs of her rather than her art, is a source of pain for O'Keeffe as she struggled to become the artist she was. It also is a source of friction in their marriage.

How I wish I could include just a couple of passages so you could get a feel for just how lovely the writing is, but this is an advanced copy and I won't quote per the publisher's request. You'll just have to trust me when I say that Tripp's writing is as beautiful as O'Keeffe's paintings, from the first to the last page. Highly, highly recommended!

Thanks to Random House Publishing Group and NetGalley.

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### **Rebecca Foster says**

**(DNF @ 48%)** “‘You’ve done it, Georgia,’ [Stieglitz] says. ‘The union of form and color. This. It’s a new American Art.’” Who doesn’t love Georgia O’Keeffe’s dreamy paintings of flowers and southwestern scenes? Initially I loved her tough-as-nails voice in this fictionalized autobiography, too, but as the story wore on it felt like she was withholding herself to some degree, only giving the bare facts of (dry, repetitive) everyday life and (wet, repetitive) sex scenes with 24-years-her-elder photographer Alfred Stieglitz. Call me impatient, but I couldn’t be bothered to stick around to see if something actually happened in this novel. I think I’d be interested in glancing through O’Keeffe and Stieglitz’s correspondence, though, just to see how the voices compare to what Tripp has created here.

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