



## Marcel Proust: A Life

*Jean-Yves Tadié, Euan Cameron (Translator)*

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**Marcel Proust: A Life** Jean-Yves Tadié , Euan Cameron (Translator)

Marcel Proust was arguably the greatest writer of the twentieth century. This fascinating, definitive biography by the premier world authority on Proust redefines the way we look at both the artist and the man.

A bestseller in France, where it was originally published to great critical acclaim, Jean-Yves Tadié's monumental life of Proust makes use of a wealth of primary material only recently made available, *Marcel Proust: A Life* provides a scrupulously researched and engaging picture of the intellectual and social universe that fed Proust's art, along with an indispensable critical reading of the work itself. The result is authoritative, magisterial, and a beautiful example of the art of biography.

## Marcel Proust: A Life Details

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Author : Jean-Yves Tadié , Euan Cameron (Translator)

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## **From Reader Review Marcel Proust: A Life for online ebook**

### **John says**

Again I need to review my notes.

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### **Estep Nagy says**

Not just the best biography of Proust, by a long shot, but one of the best non-fiction books I've ever read about anything. Tadié has lived for so long with Proust's work and life that he speaks about him as if he were a friend or relative, which you'd think would be irritating but his learning is so deep that it's not. The part of this book that has stuck with me the most is actually a footnote, where Tadié compares 4 versions of the last sentence of ROTP, and this comparison in itself is validation for obsessive re-writers everywhere: the first 3 are merely good, or merely interesting, or merely ambitious, but the 4th is immortal.

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### **TapMyShoulder says**

Dans le premier tome il est chou, dans le deuxième un peu moins.

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### **Jay Daze says**

Something I'm going to read concurrently or post my Proust project.

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### **Rohomes says**

Excellent, but so long!

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### **Richard Anderson says**

Informative; a good companion while reading The Book.

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### **Jemma says**

A thorough biography but a bit intense for anyone approaching Proust without a background in reading his novels.

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### **Michael Finocchiaro says**

I read both the French original and the English translation of this - the definitive Proust biography. Yes, George Painter's was written with primary sources that were still alive, but Painter was not French and did not have enough distance from the subject to be objective. Tadié by contrast, who edited the Pleiades versions of *La Recherche* (and his notes also populate the less-expensive but nonetheless invaluable Folio paperback volumes), does an incredible job of painting the more accurate picture possible of my favourite author (with Joyce) and (with *Ulysses*) my favourite book and how it came into being. It is a fascinating and captivating look into this man with so many contradictions and who - as so many in his generation - died so early. Fans of Proust should absolutely read this one to understand more deeply both the man and the monument to world literature he left behind.

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### **Pino Sabatelli says**

Il monumentale lavoro di studio e documentazione che sta dietro questa biografia meriterebbe dieci stelle, ma l'ossessione di Tadié per il dettaglio rende la lettura non sempre gradevole. Comunque un'opera notevole.

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### **Hugh Coverly says**

Tadié's overarching concept is that Proust never forgot anything and every experience has been used in the construction of the great masterpiece of the 20th century. What Tadié does in this wonderful biography is not only to present the life story of Marcel Proust but the story of the making of *In Search of Lost Time*. Unfortunately, the story ends with Proust's death in November 1922, but another chapter should also be told of how Robert Proust in association with a group of editors worked to bring this great work to completion in 1927.

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### **E. Gail Chandler says**

This book is methodically researched and a great reference, but unless spending 3-6 months reading the tiny details of Proust's life is your idea of fun, a shorter bio may be wise. This book is . . .well . . . kinda like reading Proust. I'm not sure why I read the whole thing but if I got drunk when it was over, I celebrated appropriately.

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### **Larry Mc Ilvoy says**

One of the best biographies I've ever read. Great for the addict, but not so much the general reader, if there is such a thing with Proust. It does rehash the novel in detail--filling in blanks of who was really who--but also adds a wealth of extra and extraordinary details.

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## **Hadrian says**

This biography met my high expectations. It's comprehensive and detailed, but not overwhelming. It uses other writers' interviews and memoirs but also has enough distance to access correspondence and be relatively impartial. He has a solid balance between representing Proust's own life and the circumstances he lived in. And for all that Tadié is able to find, he even manages to avoid the appearance of being too certain, and he admits when some facts are suspect or incomplete.

I wish I could give a more substantive review, but seeing as I've read only a few volumes to completion, I can't give an informed opinion. Tadié's argument, if a long biography can have an argument, is that Proust used everything from his own life in his writing, as much as he could. Even in my own incomplete reading of Proust's novels, I can already see events and characters which were taken and used in some form.

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## **Czarny Pies says**

This book is a remarkable work of scholarship which is of enormous assistance to anyone who has read the complete set of seven novels in *A la Recherche du temps perdu* which despite its great charms can leave the reader confused at times. To the person familiar with Proust, the book is a source of great pleasure. It would not however be a good introduction to Proust as it is too tightly tied to his writing to stand alone.

Tadie notes that Proust completed the project in a hurry as he understood that he was dying. Originally Proust had considered the work as two novels. One would be comprised of *Du Cote de chez Swan*, *A l'ombre des jeunes filles en fleurs*, and *Le cote des Guermantes (I & II)*. The other work would have been comprised of *Sodome et Gomorrhe* and *Albertine Disparue*. Tadie carefully goes through the drafts and helps the reader appreciate how the two projects were ultimately integrated into one. In so doing he explains some of the inconsistencies that surprised me and I assume other readers.

Tadie also does a great job of identifying who the book's characters were based which is also of great help as *Temps Perdu* is a roman a cle of enormous complexity. Thus with Tadie one is able to identify who is James Whistler, Alphonse Daudet, Henri Bergson, Ignacy Paderewski, etc. Despite the old rule that a book is to stand on its own not on information that stands outside of it, in this case it is helpful. If you have the key to *Roman a clé* and you know the works of the artists or writers who appear in a work, your ability to appreciate the book is greatly enhanced.

Finally, it must be said that for the person who has read the entire series, the book is a great joy because of Tadié's remarkable writing style which often leaves the reader feeling that she or he is reading one more volume from *A la recherche du temps perdu*.

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