



Sydney and Violet: Their Life with T.S. Eliot, Proust, Joyce and the Excruciating

By Klaidman, Stephen.

Nan A. Talese. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Even the most brilliant writer is nothing without the right reader. To many of the most creative minds in preWorld War II Britain, those readers included Sydney and Violet Schiff. Sydney, himself a novelist (under the pseudonym Stephen Hudson) and Violet famously brought together Marcel Proust, James Joyce, Sergei Diaghilev, Igor Stravinsky, and Pablo Picasso at a 1922 party in Paris, and though the event was not a happy one for some of these passionate personalities, it symbolizes much of what made the Schiffs vital to the arts of their time. In Violet's 1962 obituary in London's Times, T.S. Eliot wrote, "I write primarily to pay homage to a beloved friend, but also in the hope that some future chronicler of the history of art and letters in our time may give to Sydney and Violet Schiff the place which is their due." Stephen Klaidman does just that with this endlessly intriguing double biography. "Klaidman writes about the formidable Violet and fussy Sydney with affection and even, on occasion, a bit of dry wit. [in this] fast-moving, anecdote-rich book. If you enjoyed Edmund de Waal's The Hare with Amber Eyes...



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