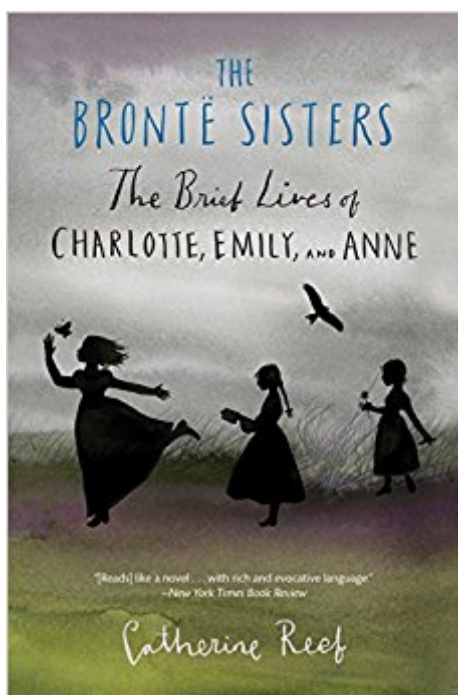


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The Brontë Sisters: The Brief Lives Of Charlotte, Emily, And Anne



Synopsis

The Brontë sisters are among the most beloved writers of all time, best known for their classic nineteenth-century novels *Jane Eyre* (Charlotte), *Wuthering Heights* (Emily), and *Agnes Grey* (Anne). In this sometimes heartbreaking young adult biography, Catherine Reef explores the turbulent lives of these literary siblings and the oppressive times in which they lived. Brontë fans will also revel in the insights into their favorite novels, the plethora of poetry, and the outstanding collection of more than sixty black-and-white archival images. A powerful testimony to the life of the mind. (Endnotes, bibliography, index.)

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Customer Reviews

"Romance and heartache and doom, oh my! This beautifully written and researched account . . . reads like a novel, with rich and evocative language." —The New York Times Book Review
"For readers discovering the wonder of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*, this collective biography of the Brontë family fills in fascinating detail of their personal and public lives . . . [a] stirring biography." —Booklist, starred review
"Gracefully plotted, carefully researched . . . A solid and captivating look at these remarkable pioneers of modern fiction." —Kirkus, starred review
"A detail-rich look at the lives of the Brontë sisters, whose work shocked, entertained, and provoked the minds of their Victorian audiences. . . . A comprehensive introduction to the authors behind some of the most-studied novels in English literature." —Publishers Weekly, starred review
"For anyone who has ever loved the romantic yet melancholy Heathcliff or the determined *Jane Eyre*, this book belongs on your shelf." —The Huffington Post
"This biography for middle-schoolers introduces a fascinating, close-knit family with lively imaginations who liked nothing better than to

run free on the moors that surrounded their home and make up stories and poems about imaginary kingdoms."â Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "If you're in search of a readable, yet detailed, biography of the Bronte sisters, then look no further than Reef's account, an ideal supplement to any student's reading of the Bronte classics."â EW.com

Catherine Reef is the author of more than 40 nonfiction books, including many highly acclaimed biographies for young people. She lives in College Park, Maryland. Visit her online at catherinereef.com.

I never could get into the Bronte sisters' actual works of fiction, but I had always heard that much of their fiction was based on their real life experiences, which is what led me to this book, which I really enjoyed for several reasons. First, it is an extremely fast read. If you wanted to, you could pound this out in a day. If you buy the Kindle version, the footnotes begin around 70% of the way through the book, so the last 30% of the book is not actual text. Second, it's an interesting look at the lives of the Bronte sisters, as well as their father, brother, and some of their friends. The women's books are, to some degree or another, vastly influenced by their experiences as middle-class women with little social standing. The author summarizes the books each sister wrote, along with their critical and popular reception. The book moves at a brisk pace, quoting just enough of the literature to be relevant and not over-sampling. I have found, on reading this book, that I have a greater appreciation for *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* now. I still don't really care for those books, but now that I see them in their political and social context, I understand them better. I would actually suggest this book to anyone who has to read any of the Bronte books for school - I wish I had had something like this when I was in high school. It is definitely easy to read and will probably give a reader of Bronte fiction a better understanding of the books themselves and the Bronte sisters' real goals in writing those novels.

The biography begins with the Bronte's move to Haworth and follows the story of the three sisters, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne as well as the brother Branwell through childhood until the death of all four siblings. This biography reads much like a novel with brief stories about each sister taken from letters, diary entries, and fictional writings from the Brontes as well as from the people they encountered. The large amount of sources from different people in the Brontes' lives gives a more holistic approach that would be lacking if only reviewing diary entries. Reef also includes relevant historical context such as the Industrial Revolution and the Victorian social class structure. These

historical overviews gives the reader not only insight into the lives of the Brontes but also shows sources of inspiration for their novels. Reef presents the biographical stories and historical context in a very simple language and layout similar to a young adult's novel. Because the biography is written as a novel about the Brontes (and particularly focused on Charlotte), the chapter titles are phrases and would be difficult to use if the reader is researching a specific topic or time period. Reef is a very credible author and all the sources are listed in the back of the book; however, there are no in-text citations. Therefore, the book is easy to read and credible but very difficult to use for research. This biography would be great for young adults who are interested in the Bronte novels and for adults who want biographical and historical information. This book is not suitable for in-depth research (which made the book a much easier and pleasant read). Reading this book on the Kindle is also difficult if you wish to see the references at any time. I would recommend this book as the first (or only) biography to read on the Brontes since it is an easy yet comprehensive story.

This is a very well written book about the Bronte sisters and their family. It is almost unremittingly sad. All six of the children (five girls and a boy) died before they were 40. Many of JANE EYRE's themes seem to come from Charlotte's past. I will read JANE EYRE again with a new appreciation for the story.

I am preparing for a tour of Bronte country and this is the best synopsis of their lives that I have found. It is succinct, well organized, and provides the insight I was seeking. I highly recommend it.

I enjoyed The Bronte Sister by Catherine Reef. It's a good book for young readers and adults. I especially loved the author's honesty about her subjects. The three sisters were not perfect, but the author treats these imperfections with truth & class. The author also provides good plot summaries for the sister's classic novels. I'm moving on to read all of the Bronte sister's novels and to read more about their lives.

This book was everything that I expected, showing the history of this family and the tragedies that they faced.

A little dogmatic and dry. It does, however, give the reader insight into their beginning and development.

SUCH A NICE BOOK AND SO INTERESTING. THE PRINT IS WONDERFUL!

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