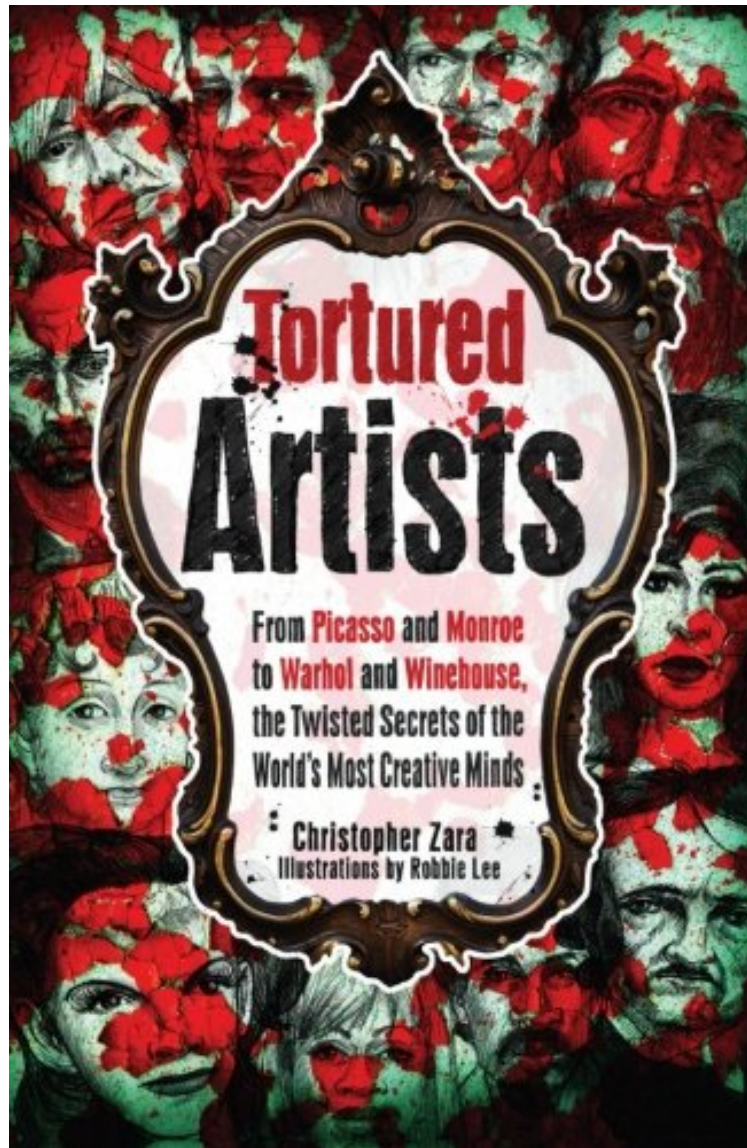


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Tortured Artists: From Picasso and Monroe to Warhol and Winehouse, the Twisted Secrets of the World's Most Creative Minds

Christopher Zara

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Christopher Zara : Tortured Artists: From Picasso and Monroe to Warhol and Winehouse, the Twisted Secrets of the World's Most Creative Minds before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tortured Artists: From Picasso and Monroe to Warhol and Winehouse, the Twisted Secrets of the World's Most Creative Minds:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. " Tortured Artists" book reviewBy Mary T. McCabe"Tortured Artists" by Christopher Zara was recommended to me as an "excellent read" and I concur. We often hear of hardships some artists face in life but Zara reveals many little known or unknown hard times of a variety of artists. His unique style, wit, and great insight helps one understand how the pain in their lives brought them to their greatest hours. I found the book to be well written and well researched. I liked the layout of the book and his groupings of the artists and that he included some of the oldest artists along with those newer to the world and those from a number of artistic endeavors. I find myself questioning now what other artists have in their background that caused them to create or write as they have. I'd like to read more from this author and I hope "Tortured Artists II" is on Christopher Zara's agenda. I highly recommend "Tortured Artists."4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I was tired of having nothing interesting to sayBy Jeff JonesI don't know about you, but sometimes I find myself with my "artist-y" friends and other creative types, and while sitting around an open bottle of wine drinking the conversation will inevitably drift to minutaie about various artists. As they go on about a particular influence or major figure in a particular field of music, literature, or art, I find myself grasping for something cool to say about "so-and-so". But really I don't have much to add, regretably, unless "so-and-so's" life was featured late-night on a made for tv movie on Lifetime (just as an aside, to show that I'm not a complete failure, my arcane knowledge specialty is in politics and geo-politics, so watch out when we steer the conversation towards the 1988 Presidential campaign!).Then along came this great book! It's really one of those books that when you pick it up and start leafing through it you find yourself wanting to read more and more. I'd say that they were like intellectual potato chips, once you read one chapter you're ready to read the next one, and the next. But they're more like intellectual Doritos, because they're a bit spicy and have a great stylistic zing to them that make it seem like you are already friends with the author. Just another fun art-sy creative type sitting around a bottle of wine - only now I have something interesting to say, because I've read this book.So, if you are interested in pop culture, history, art, literature, or music - you're going to really enjoy this book. If you don't like those topics, well, god help you. You must be an insufferable bore and I pity your co-workers.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and thought-provoking essays on great artistsBy JessicaI really enjoyed this book a lot. It's a series of short essays about acclaimed artists broken into chapters that categorize their particular angst - bad childhood, unrequited love, drug abuse. It's especially handy to have around if you're interrupted a lot when you're reading as each little story about the artists isn't very long and it's easy to put down and pick back up again.What this book really did was get me thinking about the link between pain and great art. Would any of these artists trade their "greatness" in order to have a happy life? Was creating art that transcends the ages worth being tormented and miserable during their lives? Would I be willing to experience deep pain across my life in order to produce a work of art on par with the artists listed in the book? I don't have an answer for any of these questions, but they certainly made me pause and reflect.Also, the illustrations in the book are very fun and really added to the work.

Great art comes from great pain.Or that's the impression left by the haunting profiles in Tortured Artists, which examines the maladies that drive creative types to the brink of despair and the inspired works that are born from their anguish. The book comprises illuminating profiles of forty-eight celebrated figures from literature, music, drama, and visual art. The artists are a carefully chosen mix of pioneers and mavericks whose creative contributions have forever changed their respective mediums -- everyone from Charles Schulz to Charlie Parker, Michelangelo to Madonna, Andy Warhol to Amy Winehouse. Each profile in Tortured Artists has a specific goal: to show how pain and suffering inspired the subject's art, thereby revealing the common thread that binds artistic expression of every conceivable type. As much an appreciation of artistic genius as an accessible study of the artistic psyche, Tortured Artists illustrates the surprising extent to which inner and outer turmoil fuel the creative process.

"A surprisingly sophisticated and oddly brilliant work -- part popular science and part cultural criticism -- that blends comic observation and trenchant insight into a literary treasure as difficult to put down as it is to classify." -Rain Taxi of Books.