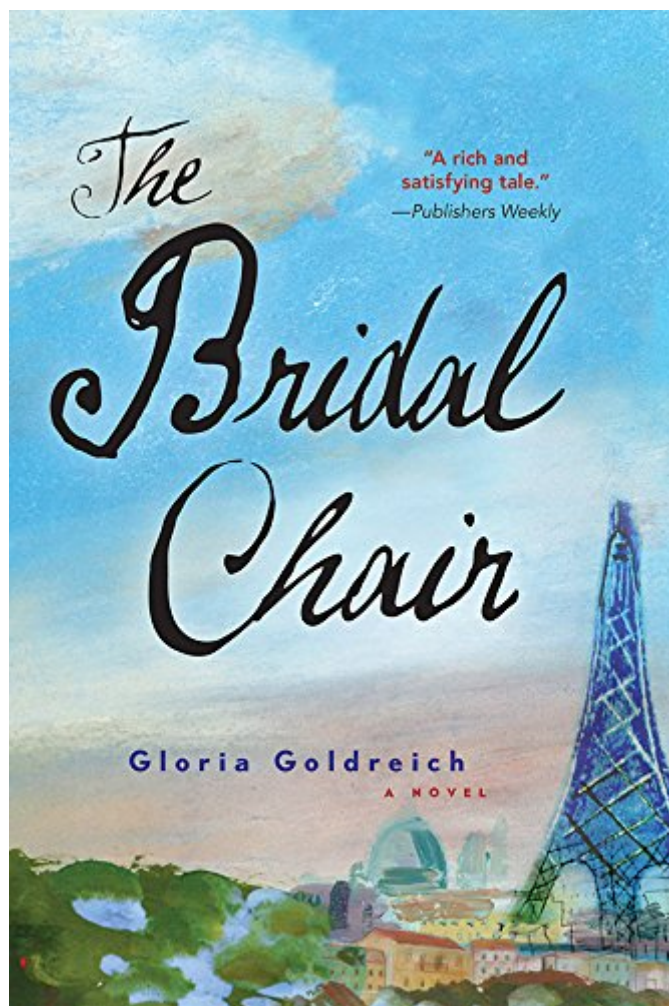


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The Bridal Chair



Synopsis

An exquisite, haunting exploration of the complex mind of Marc Chagall through the eyes of his daughter. Filled with fascinating details about the art world and colorful real-life characters, this novel may appeal to historical fiction fans who enjoyed Natasha Solomons's *The House at Tyneford* and Tatiana de Rosnay's *Sarah's Key*. Library Journal

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Beautiful Ida Chagall, the only daughter of Marc Chagall, is blossoming in the Paris art world beyond her father's controlling gaze. But her newfound independence is short-lived. In Nazi-occupied Paris, Chagall's status as a Jewish artist has made them all targets, yet his devotion to his art blinds him to their danger. When Ida falls in love and Chagall angrily paints an empty wedding chair (*The Bridal Chair*) in response, she faces an impossible choice: Does she fight to forge her own path outside her father's shadow, or abandon her ambitions to save Chagall from his enemies and himself? Brimming with historic personalities from Europe, America and Israel, *The Bridal Chair* is a stunning portrait of love, fortitude, and the sharp divide between art and real life. "Only Gloria Goldreich could write a novel so grounded in historical truths yet so exuberantly imaginative. *The Bridal Chair* is Goldreich at her best, with a mesmerizing plot, elegant images, and a remarkable heroine who...will remain with you long after the last page." Francine Klagsburn, *Jewish Week* columnist and acclaimed author of *Voices of Wisdom*

In prose as painterly and evocative as Chagall's own dazzling brushstrokes, Gloria Goldreich finely evokes one of the most significant masters of modern art through the discerning eyes of [his] loyally protective daughter. Cynthia Ozick, award-winning author of *Foreign Bodies*

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Customer Reviews

The author has made a moving and surprisingly engaging story of a small family; Marc Chagall, his wife, Bella, and their daughter, Ida. It's surprising that it's so engaging because none of the three is a hugely sympathetic character. It's possible to be a very great artist without being a narcissist, but narcissism is his single most dominant trait, followed by dependence upon other people to take care of him and self-pity. Bella is more sympathetic but finally awfully detached from everything but her conviction that she is married to a great artist; she seems to have no interests, no real friends, and no occupation. Ida, once she realizes the limits to her parents' love, devotes herself to removing every burden from her parents, making it possible for her mother to seclude herself from the world and for her father to paint and to wonder at his splendid talent, which doesn't seem quite so

splendid to me as it does to him. Goldreich raises a number of interesting issues but lets readers make their own minds up about them. Is it just fine for an adult daughter with rather large breasts to pose in the nude for her father regularly? Is it right for people to sacrifice their own happiness in order to accommodate an artist? Is the moral center of the novel Ida's first, neglected husband, and if not, who is? It's a shame that the book can't be fully illustrated so that readers can look at Marc's works as Goldreich describes their creation and consider their own reactions to it. I came away feeling that I understood Marc Chagall's work much better, which is a fine accomplishment for a novelist writing biofiction. I also came away feeling very glad I wasn't caught up in the Chagall family circle.

The family of the famous artist, Marc Chagall, is examined in this semi-fictional biography. After a pogrom, Marc Chagall flees Russia, with his family, to Paris, the nightmares of which haunt his young daughter, Ida, for years. The book focuses primarily on Ida as an adult, and of the entangled, and at times, inappropriate and bizarre relationships she shared with her parents, particularly, her father. The author uses a mix of historical as well as fiction characters. The storyline drags at times, bogged down in tedious detail and repetition.

I loved *The Bridal Chair*. This was a great story based on real events. It was an interesting look at the artist Marc Chagall and his family. It was also an interesting look at WWII in France and the U.S, the world of art during 30's through the 60's, and culture during that time period. It was an amazing look at the complicated relationship between an overbearing father and a desire for a daughter to please him. This was a very worthy read.

An insightful galloping read from a moment of joyful innocence to despairing survival and final fulfillment. *Ida Chagall* is the narrative vehicle of this interwoven story of Russian and European Jews in the art of her father Marc Chagall. Except for the weak, if at all necessary love scenes the author felt she must embellish, the writing is dripping with color, texture, ego and blind oppression of a great painter.

The story was captivating from the first page. It took you through decades of the life of Marc Chagall and his family. It was interesting and kept you eager to turn to the next page! Wonderful read by a wonderful author!!

This is one of the best books I have read in a long time. I think all of the historic facts were intertwined into a captivating, emotional and believable story about a famous man and his family. The personality of Chagall is depicted and honest fulfilling the reader's understanding about who he was and how he could create such stimulating beauty. We purchased a Chagall print on a cruise recently. It was "The Bridal Chair" so now this print means even more to me because I know its origin. Well written by the author...I like her style very much. Thank you.

Loved this book, learned about Marc Chagall and his family, as well as, his devotion to the arts along with his self centered personality. Although a great artist, he was so self absorbed, there really was no room in his life for anyone or anything that did not meet his personal needs. The story unfolds very gradually is historically correct, even if the personal conversations are fabricated

Thoroughly mesmerising book , historically accurate, on the Chagall family. From Russia to Paris, to the States and back, escaping the death camps and arriving in New York as Marc Chagalls artwork took him to greater and greater heights.A loving, yet enmeshed family, Ida , Marc and Bellas only very beautiful daughter, taking a major role in the families decisions and representing Chagalls art internationally. A book woven with sadness, great love, disappointments and so much more! And the bond of family and memories!

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