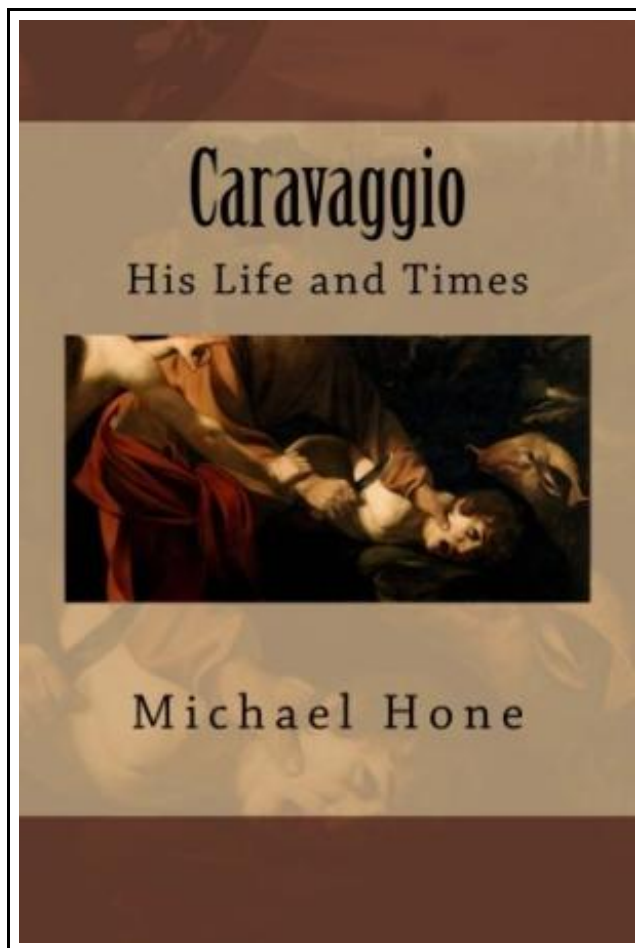


Caravaggio: His Life and Times (Paperback)



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Reviews

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CARAVAGGIO: HIS LIFE AND TIMES (PAPERBACK)

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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.What decided me to write this book were both the chiaro and the obscuro of Caravaggio's chiaroscuro. The chiaro: The eroticism found in certain paintings like *The Musicians* which show the boys' faces in the very throes of imminent orgasm, the eyes glazed over, the lips sensually parted, the tongue just visible and lascivious. Or the boys' shirts, in this and in other paintings, shirts at times undone to the waist, open on skin glistening through effort, perhaps sexual, the nipples erect, the underarms reeking of pheromones, the odor of sex so invasive that one can guess at the traces of sperm smeared somewhere over the lower belly. How much easier my last work had been, *Cellini, His Life and Times*. Despite the dark side of Cellini, the fact that he had murdered several men (stalking and attacking them from behind) and the even more disconcerting fact that Cellini was a confirmed sadist towards women (confirmed by his own autobiography!), the chiaro portions of Cellini's life were by far the more important. Like Caravaggio, Cellini was an artist of genius, but one--and this was the winning point for me concerning Cellini--who worshipped the boys he loved. But I was enthralled too by the obscuro, the blood gushing from the jugular of the virile male in his *Judith and Holofernes*, as the knife is halted forever in mid-distance, as it cuts through the throat. Or *David and the Head of Goliath*, David holding up Goliath's severed head, the self-portrait of Caravaggio himself, one eye clearly dead, the other harboring a lingering thread of life. Or *The Beheading of John the Baptist*, of disgusting reality: his executioner,...

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