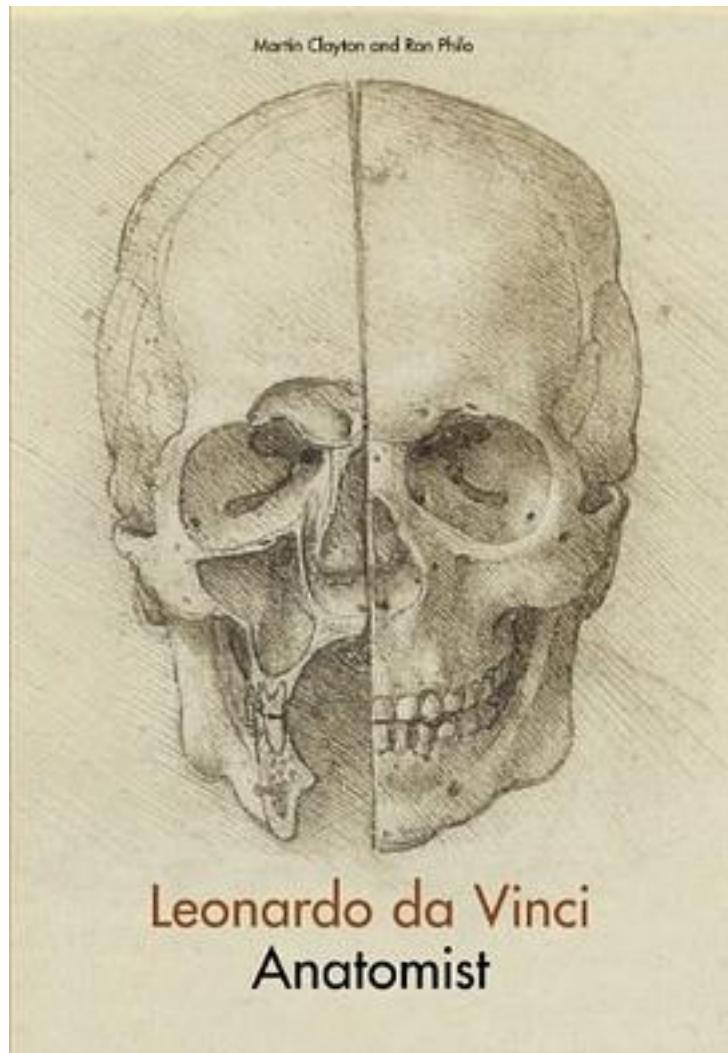


Leonardo da Vinci



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著者:Stanley, Diane

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Born in 1452 to a peasant woman and a country gentleman, Leonardo da Vinci possessed one of the most astonishing minds the world has ever known. He was an inventor whose imagination reached centuries beyond his own time. He brought a sublime artistry to science and a dramatic realism to art, crowning the Renaissance with his glittering vision. Denied a more noble profession by his illegitimate birth, as a boy Leonardo was apprenticed to a famous artist. He quickly surpassed his teacher, but his passionate interests went far beyond art. Fascinated with the secrets of nature and the human body, he carried out his own dissections and experiments. He filled thousands of pages in his notebooks with plans and designs for inventions as varied as a submarine, an air cooling system, "glasses to see the moon large," and even a flying machine! But while he was employed by princes, popes, and kings, Leonardo's personal fortune was never great. He traveled all of Italy in search of patronage. He found a rival in Michelangelo and a friend in a wily young diplomat named Machiavelli. He served both the ruthless Cesare Borgia and the brilliant young king of France, who sheltered the aged Leonardo and desired only his conversation in return. In this magnificent addition to a distinguished series, award-winning author-artist Diane Stanley blends lively and informative storytelling with exquisite illustrations to convey the wondrous purity of Leonardo's genius. "Stanley produces her most stunning pictorial biography to date. Drawing from a range of sources, including her subject's extensive notebooks, Stanley's conversational narrative describes Leonardo da Vinci's astoundingly far-reaching and varied achievements. Young readers will come to appreciate both da Vinci's universally renowned accomplishments as a painter and the breadth of his scientific experimentation and research....A virtuosic work."--Publishers Weekly. 00-01 Land of Enchantment Book Award Masterlist (Gr. 3-6)

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