



All Things Move: Learning to Look in the Sistine Chapel

Jeannie Marshall

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Jeannie Marshall's book *All Things Move* addresses the splendor of the iconic Sistine Chapel from personal and universal perspectives, delivering an intriguing, crafted interplay of historical, religious, and aesthetic observations.

Marshall, a Canadian who lives in Rome, is a frequent visitor to the Sistine Chapel. She recalls crowds of tourists swarming Vatican City before COVID-19 and the unnerving emptiness during the pandemic. But she also reaches back to detail the artistry of Michelangelo's glorious ceiling, which he completed in 1512.

After a period of plague and turmoil, the artist began work on *The Last Judgment* in 1536. The lush Renaissance beauty of Michelangelo's frescoes is contrasted with Martin Luther's contemporaneous outrage toward the excesses of the Catholic Church. Emboldened by Luther's Reformation, a crusading army ravaged Rome in 1527; despite intense violence and destruction, the Sistine Chapel survived the onslaught.

Throughout the book, Marshall also reflects upon her unsettled childhood and distinct sense of spirituality. While her repeated visits to the Sistine Chapel are only a subway ride away, each encounter resulted in deeper perspective and fascinating glimpses of ancient and contemporary Rome.

Enhanced by its photographs, *All Things Move* is an all-encompassing, intimate tour of the Sistine Chapel's extraordinary wonders.

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