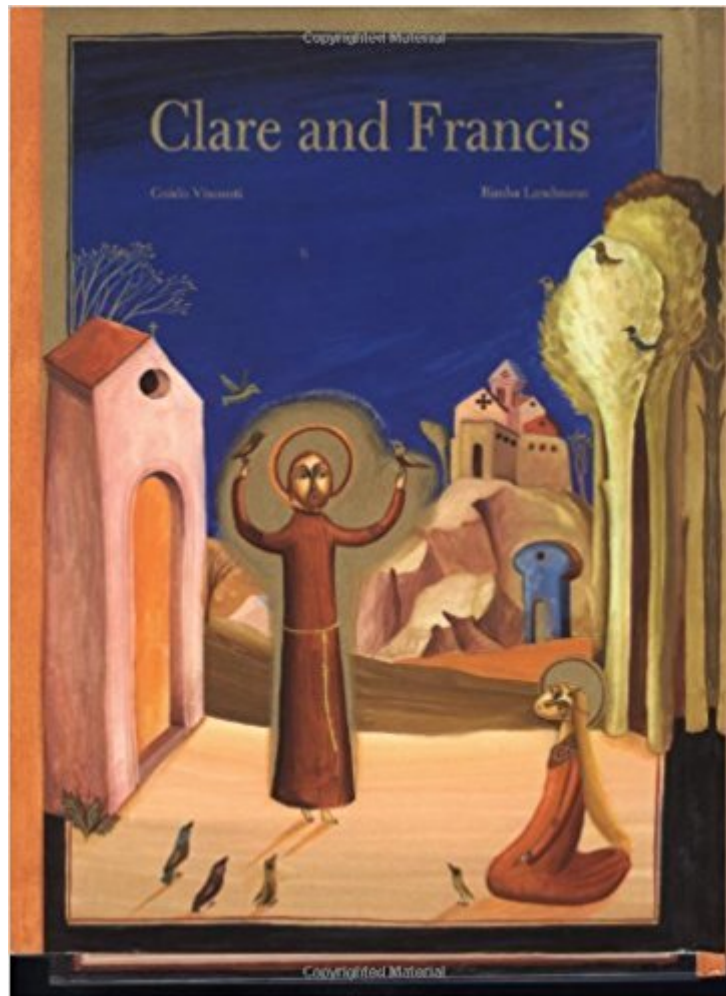




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# Clare And Francis



## Synopsis

Around the year 1200 Francis and Clare were born in Assisi, Italy. Although born into wealthy families, they chose lives of poverty instead. Francis preached to both people and animals throughout the towns, while Clare cared for the sick in the convent of San Damiano. Both gave a joyful face to the spirituality of the Middle Ages and set examples that live on even today. Here the story of Clare and Francis is told in simple words and illustrated through striking images adorned with gold. Opening with a short chronological biography accompanied by miniatures and closing with Francis's "Canticle of Brother Sun," this inspiring book will bring the tale of Assisi's two great saints to life for readers everywhere.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 4 "While many have heard the legends associated with Saint Francis, few know the second saint from Assisi—Clare. Both were born to noble families and exhibited sensitivity to those less fortunate, even in their youth. Both ultimately rejected their families' wealth and founded religious orders known for humility, generosity, and devout faith. This book details what is known about their early and mature years, as well as their relationship with one another.

Landmann's paintings recall the nonlinear perspective, figural style, and narrative frescoes of the 14th-century artist Giotto. She alternates between multiple panels on a page to lavish spreads. Gilt highlights add a richness to the scenes. Initial pages present a pair of illustrated time lines, comprising significant moments in the saints' lives. The closing offers two translations of Francis's

"Canticle of Brother Sun." To extend children's enjoyment of stories about Francis and to help them understand the legacy introduced in this artful picture-book biography, share Margaret Mayo's *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* (Little, Brown, 2000) and Frances Ward Weller's *The Day the Animals Came* (Philomel, 2003) with them.â "Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 4-7. Unlike many books about saints Clare and Francis, this picture book for older children begins as Clare gives her bread to the poor. The focus then quickly shifts to Francis, a young man as kind as he is generous, who dreams about becoming a knight, but decides to serve a higher lord. The familiar story of Francis (and to a lesser extent, Clare) is beautifully treated in this book, with luminous iconic artwork and a text that is both down-to-earth and stroking the stars. Children will be caught up in the struggles of the saints, which will seem relevant to their own lives: the quest for material pleasures, disagreements with family, spiritual hunger. Visconte's incisively written text explains how Francis infused life's practical moments with the sacred, the words heightened by Landmann's extraordinary artwork. With overtones of Byzantine style, a medieval sensibility, and ripples of Marc Chagall's mysticism, the pictures, all dappled with gilt, beg children to look closely at the full and double-page spreads and at the pages with small squares that explain Francis' ministry. "The Canticle of Brother Sun," its words gloriously drenched in gold, makes for a shining ending. Ilene Cooper Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

The artwork is gorgeous! I love the 13th century feel of the artwork - very fitting for the subject matter, and perfect to introduce young children to different types of artwork. One of my favorite things about this book is before the story begins, there is a two-page spread timeline with little square icons next each listing of dates for the major events of the saints' lives. What a thoughtful thing to add to a children's picture book!

Beautifully illustrated story, simply told.

Agreed that this is probably the most beautiful children's book ever. For that alone, it's worth buying. There are many, many stories about St. Francis of Assisi (not so many about St. Clare) but this one stands heads and shoulders above the rest!

Gorgeous book, well-written with photos that jump off the page and will make your jaw drop. did a

lousy job of packaging, though, damaging the cover.

This book was attractive, but way too short for what I was looking for ... for a biography for older children.

I agree with all that has been said about the pictures in this book from the professional and reader reviews. The reading is easy and I am sure that children will enjoy having it read to them and third or fourth graders will enjoy reading it for themselves. But given the beauty of the pictures, even those older than 9 years will enjoy this book. It starts with a short summary of Francis' and Clare's lives told by 24 small pictures on two pages, each with one or two sentence explanations. Having read several other books on Saint Francis of Assisi, I read the book with the question in my mind, "What is the basic theme or message of Saint Francis life that the author is trying to convey in what she includes, emphasizes or minimizes?" I would say that it is this: that Saint Francis, who always gave to the poor even in his care free days, loved God and, as a result, the poor, the animals, those with little and those with much power in his day, and even his enemies in foreign lands. Francis loved them with God's love. And God's love revealed through Francis for others drew them: women, such Clare, his old neighbors, the poor and even the animals to God. It is not surprising to learn that the author of this wonderful story, while born in Italy, and after receiving a degree in Literature and Philosophy is now, with his wife, directing a village school in India.

Clare And Francis by Guido Visconti is an incredible, beautifully illustrated picture book about the lives of both Francis and Clare, two people who were born in Assisi, Italy around the year 1200. Although both Francis and Clare were born into wealthy families, both of them deliberately chose to live lives of dedicated poverty. Francis preached to people throughout towns and villages, while Clare cared for the sick in the convent of San Damiano. Both Francis and Clare wholeheartedly embraced spirituality and Christian faith, and their lives set an example in the Middle Ages that is remembered down to this very day. Stunning, colorful illustrations by Bimba Landmann in an offshoot of medieval painting style help make Clare And Francis an unforgettable biographical portrait, one which is meant to be treasured and shared between readers of all ages and generations.

This is the most gorgeous children's books I've ever seen--the illustrations are rendered like classic iconography. The text is decent as well, though the real reason to have this book is not to read it but

to look at it.

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