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**Book Information**

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**Customer Reviews**

How can one write anything at all about so magisterial a study dedicated to one of the most extraordinary men who ever lived and which took its author about 1600 pages and more than two decades of his life to write? Impossible. But that doesn’t mean one cannot at least try. In short, Alan
Walker's three volume study Franz Liszt is an incredible literary and scholarly achievement. It really is hard to believe that such combination of brilliant writing style can be coupled with so high an informational content and with such an impeccable scholarship. But it happens to be true. Small wonder that Mr Walker's three volumes are currently the most comprehensive and the most authoritative study of Franz Liszt's life available in any language. Indeed, this is likely to remain so for a good many years ahead. To say that Alan Walker's style is absorbing, gluing to the pages and reads like a novel is so trite and so hackneyed a cliche that hardly bears repetition. But it happens to be true - and is the best proof known to me that a biography can be scholarly written and enjoyable to read at the same time; claims that the former is incompatible with the latter are often made - chiefly by excellent scholars who are indifferent writers or vice versa. As for Alan Walker's literary style, considering the complexity of his subject and the scope of his work, it simply cannot be bettered; even his Acknowledgments sections are readable. It is a style not just clear, lucid and perfectly organized, but also engaging, amusing, and penetrating, one that boldly approaches perfection, namely being like a conversation with an old friend beside the fireside with a glass of something sufficiently alcoholic in hand.

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