

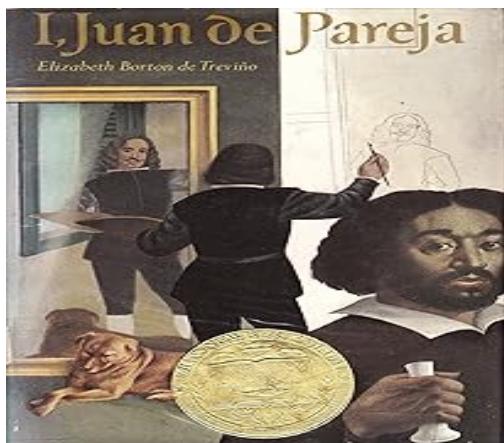
I, Juan de Pareja By Elizabeth Borton de Treviño Velázquez is considered an early precursor of the realist and impressionist movements so hearing some of this thoughts on painting the truth (one of the few quotes that can be attributed to him) explained why he differed so much from his contemporaries and why he was so ahead of his time. Both are masterpieces of a slave and a king painted around the same time and when you look at them.

Elizabeth Borton de Treviño was the highly acclaimed author of many books for young people. In later life she wrote several memoirs of her life as an American who had married into a traditional Mexican family: the best seller *My Heart Lies South* and its sequels *Where the Heart Is* and *The Hearthstone of My Heart*. Juan is a slave of African descent and following the fever death of his mistress in Seville he becomes the property of her nephew one Don Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez. De Trevino gives us an interesting glimpse into the lives of these two men and the book should provoke interest in searching out images of their works which hang in famous galleries around the world. From the description of the book I already expected that the relationship between master and slave would be glorified and I was prepared to look past it since it's from the sixties. While Velazquez' paintings are not as luminescent as those I remember seeing while reading *Girl With a Pearl Earring* about Vermeer I thought the characters created were admirable and worth learning about. Because they were both historical fiction from the perspective of the servant of famous painters I couldn't help comparing the books to each other and I felt less haunted reading this one! 180 It was a nice quick read. Juan has a good heart and loves his Master and Mistress which turn out to be a blessing to him bc they are good hearted people that actually treat him well almost like a family member an equal. ENJOY!! 180 What a surprise! I stubbornly think of biographies as boring but I absolutely loved this book! It is full of wonderful reflections on the true good and beautiful in art and life. 5 stars**Juan de Pareja's portrait by Velázquez is my favorite painting (every time I see it it makes me cry) so it was with trepidation and excitement that I started this audio. My only issue is that although Juan is an adult for most of the book you feel like you know the real person (to me Juan looks the better person of the two; the Pope looks the type to stab people in the back. She also had good knowledge of Castilian Spanish because she pronounced the 'Z' in the proper way (it may sound weird for people that are not familiar with this pronunciation but it is correct. :) 180 When the great Velazquez was painting his masterpieces at the Spanish court in the seventeenth century his colors were expertly mixed and his canvases carefully prepared by his Negro slave Juan de Pareja. In a vibrant novel which depicts both the beauty and the cruelty of the time and place Elizabeth Borton de Trevino tells the story of Juan who was born a slave and died an accomplished and respected artist:

He doesn't seem like a grown-up but maybe this is so because the book was written for children: This book was also written in the 60s (around the time of the Civil Rights Movements) so there are also a lot of important thoughts regarding race relations and freedom, Learning about the relationship between the portraits of Juan and Pope Innocent X's was extremely enlightening and even a bit ironic, Born in California it was her move to Mexico in the 1930s that inspired many of her books including *El Güero: A True Adventure Story* and *Leona: A Love Story*, She won the Newbery Medal in 1966 for *I Juan de Pareja*: Elizabeth was born in Bakersfield California the daughter of attorney Fred Ellsworth Borton and Carrie Louise Christensen, She attended Stanford University graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1925 with a bachelors degree in Latin American history: After finishing college she moved to Massachusetts to study violin at the Boston Conservatory and then worked as a reporter: On her marriage to Luis Treviño Arreola y Gómez Sanchez de la Barquera Elizabeth Borton de Treviño was the highly acclaimed author of many books for young people. Born in California it was her move to Mexico in the 1930s that inspired many of her books including *El Güero: A True Adventure Story* and *Leona: A Love Story*. She won the Newbery Medal in 1966 for *I Juan de Pareja*. Elizabeth was born in Bakersfield California the daughter of attorney Fred Ellsworth Borton and Carrie Louise Christensen, She attended Stanford University graduating Phi Beta Kappa

in 1925 with a bachelor's degree in Latin American history: After finishing college she moved to Massachusetts to study violin at the Boston Conservatory and then worked as a reporter. On her marriage to Luis Treviño Arreola y Gómez Sanchez de la Barquera (b. August 5 1902) she moved to his hometown of Monterrey Mexico, They had two sons Luis Fredrico Treviño Borton and Enrique Ricardo Treviño Borton. Among her other books are: *Nacar the White Deer* *The Greek of Toledo* *Casilda of the Rising Moon* *Beyond the Gates of Hercules* and *The Fourth Gift*. For information please see [{site_link}](#) [{site_link}](#) I enjoyed this as much as I did when I first read it in the 1990's.

180 An excellent book for young readers with the caveat that Borton's vocabulary will challenge many. Told first person through Juan's eyes this story of himself and the seventeenth century Spanish painter Diego Velazquez develops in a warm and realistic manner. It betrays its 1965 origin by not sufficiently projecting then current American attitudes toward race and slavery unto its main characters: 180 I Juan de Pareja was born into slavery early in the seventeenth century, I have never yet been disappointed with a winner of the ALA Newbery Medal and I Juan de Pareja the 1966 winner by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino kept my string intact: With expressive descriptions of people and places de Trevino introduces us to a Europe yeasty with new ideas and towns bathed in a golden light: Although for her book de Trevino built upon the few extant personal facts regarding Velazquez the bare bones are true and it all makes for a good story: Juan survives an arduous trip to Madrid and matures into an invaluable assistant to Velazquez who is already a well-established painter: The painter must unmix them and lay them on again shade by shade and then the eye of the beholder takes over and mixes them again. Juan learns to grind colors build frames and stretch linens and after several years accompanies Velazquez to the Spanish Court and eventually to Italy and the Vatican, He secretly hones his painterly skills and becomes an accomplished artist himself. Juan and Velazquez develop bonds of deep respect and affection while entrusting their lives to God. The sole authenticated Velazquez quote describes his approach to his craft: I would rather be first in painting something ugly than second in painting beauty. Though intended for children it is the work of a mature writer showing depth and nuance: There are two odd errors that to my knowledge have never been corrected in the half century since publication: p. Of course these do nothing to diminish the greatness of the book. I see that some editions have taken the image of Juan with King Philip that was originally on the back of the dust jacket and moved it to the front cover. This is a mistake I think giving away too much of the story. 180 A slice of life novel designed to teach a young audience about Juan de Pareja slave to the painter Diego Velazquez, I enjoyed the descriptions of everyday life though they probably make the book too slow for the actual intended audience: What I didn't enjoy was how a lot of things were handled. However the way other people are characterized made it very hard not to be annoyed: Good people are always beautiful while everyone Juan dislikes or pities is less attractive and/or part of a minority: Apart from that the important plot points felt rushed some even came out of nowhere. The result is that I didn't get a sense of Juan as a painter only as a slave while his own journey just seemed to get started: Good concept and writing but not really a book that stood the test of time: 180



I enjoy books about real people from long ago though there is often not enough info to create a biography, This book is from a perspective of a black slave of Diego Velazquez. I liked that it was

told in the narration of the slave Juan de Pareja. The author gave him a sad but happy life with what little is known about him and his Master Spanish painter Diego Velazquez of the 17th c: Pareja meets good people that want to help him throughout his life journey. He recognizes his Masters talent and would love to paint except it is illegal that a slave learn art, So he teaches himself but it is agony to him to do it secretly, The author has done a good job of giving Juan a life esp since now I am interested in someone (2 someones) I knew nothing about which is the point I believe: I was fascinated by the art history and inspired to look up the works of the artists Velasquez Rubens Murillo. I was especially pleased that the author included the importance of the Catholic faith and sacraments in the lives of these historical figures: The first of which probably has more to do with my personal tastes I have studied art history throughout high school and college and am fascinated by the subject, The book kept me wanting to read which is always a sign of a good book, The story was very touching and I found myself relating to and sympathizing with the main character on several levels: Finally after reading this book I was aching to know more: Obviously as a children's historical fiction book the author could not lay out all the details of the painters' lives (what little is known about them anyway.) But I want to study that time period in Spain and learn more about their customs: I want to learn more about Catholicism and the meaning behind the Rosary and some of the religious implications of the book. I highly recommend this book! It's a well-written quick reading book: The book follows the story of Juan de Pareja and his life as the slave of Diego de Velázquez the leading painter in the court of King Philip IV of Spain. Historically we know little of their life except what is portrayed in the paintings and important acts that were documented like marriages and deaths. The author did a good job of weaving known facts with situations that may well have happened: :)The narrator did a good job with the characters and the pacing, :) However she mispronounced Velázquez' name which drove me nuts (in Spanish the U in QUE is silent but she would pronounce it as in Queen,) But this is something that would probably only bother a native Spanish speaker like me so if you want to listen to this I wouldn't let that deter you: I'm glad at the end that I picked this up because it really just makes me want to learn more.This is fiction not biography. Yet in her way Borton does not deny or misrepresent. The book's Newberry Medal was well deserved.A good read. The eye is complicated. It mixes the colors for you. explained Master. Before Velazquez dies he gives Juan his freedom. 180 A tremendous book.44 an access of enthusiasm should be an excess and p.66 weasle-eyed should be weasel-eyed. That seemed contradictory to the message of the novel. 180 I gave this book 5 stars for several reasons. The next reason is that there was never a dull moment. The character development was astounding. 180 **3. I Juan de Pareja.