

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 9: NUMBER 3.....MARCH, 2014

A Fictional Art Heist

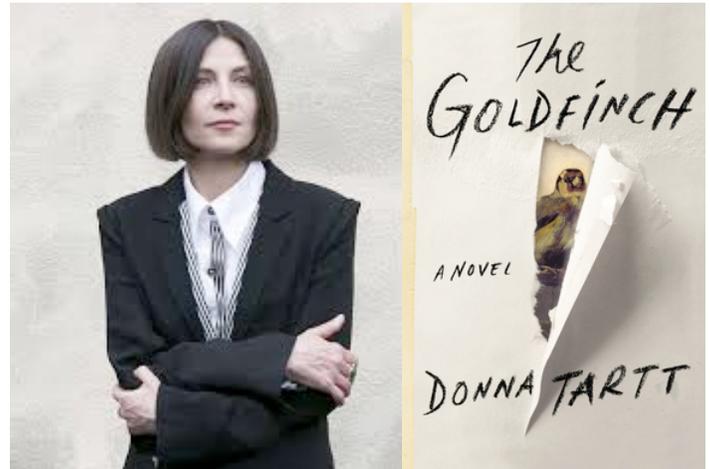
Art theft is a peculiar crime. It draws a great deal of public attention, like the recent discovery in a private Munich collection of 1,500 pieces of art looted by the Nazis. Important works like *The Concert* by Johannes VerMeer, stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in 1990, can never be sold because of notoriety, and instead may vanish into the underworld as collateral in international criminal enterprises. Tragically, some art may be lost forever, destroyed, as is suspected of the works of Picasso and Monet taken in the Kunsthal heist of 2012. Although the eponymous *The Goldfinch* has never gone missing, Donna Tartt weaves a masterful tale around its fictional abduction that deeply explores the value of art to the individual admirer.

Featured this Month

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

The story begins with a bang --literally. Thirteen-year-old Theo Decker, in prep school and well brought up by his single mother, lingers by the gift shop in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, hoping for a second glimpse of a stranger --a beautiful girl on the arm of her elderly uncle --when a terrorist bomb explodes. Theo's mother, in another gallery, is killed; Theo attends the elderly uncle as he dies, and in shock and confusion, the boy stumbles from the wreckage into an entirely different life --clutching a rare and famous painting blown off the exhibit walls -- *The Goldfinch* by Carel Fabritius, painted in the Netherlands in 1654, shortly before the painter himself perished in the explosion of an armaments depository.

With authorities unable to locate Theo's ne'er-do-well father, he is accepted into the wealthy, but not exactly healthy, family of a schoolmate, where with some unwelcome, especially from a younger daughter, Kitsy, he heals slowly, and a relationship



grows with Hobie, an antiques restorer and the business partner of the elderly man in the museum. Theo is still smitten by the girl, Pippa, also a survivor of the bombing. And he still has the painting, having told no one. It has become his touchstone and the metaphor of his existence.

Suddenly, Theo's father appears to whisk him away to the hollowed out suburbs of Las Vegas, where Mr. Decker exists in his hyperbolic fantasies as a small time gambler. Theo, unsupervised and drifting, strikes up a needy, deep friendship with Boris, the son of a Russian emigre gangster. But this life, too, is destined to end abruptly.

In the second half of the novel, Theo, now a young man managing the antiques business with Hobie, is threatened with a past that is about to catch up with him, that will involve them all --Kitsy, Pippa, and most of all Boris, in a dangerous plot with *The Goldfinch* at supreme risk.

The Goldfinch, it is thought, was painted as a trompe d'oeil, cleverly creating the illusion of a real bird. In Donna Tartt's novel, too, the realism and authenticity of the characters that her art creates make this a compelling read and her musing on what happens when we gaze on a masterwork worth pondering.

Introduction and review by Mary Anne Ciancia

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New at the Library

Films on DVD

Savage County
Small Island
Jesse Stone: Thin Ice
Jesse Stone: No Remorse
Jesse Stone: Stone Cold
Sullivan's Travels
The Miracle Worker
Goodbye Mr. Chips
Johnny Guitar
The Hi-Lo Country
Songcatcher
Becoming John Ford
Drums along the Mohawk
The Grapes of Wrath
How Green Was My Valley
My Darling Clementine [and] Frontier Marshall
The Shootists [and] The Sons of Katie Elder
Wuthering Heights

Fiction

The Fear Index by Robert Harris
A Pug's Tale by Alison Pace

Nonfiction

The Presidents Club by Nancy Gibbs & Michael Duffy
New Mexico Historical Biographies by Don Bullis
Unsolved: *New Mexico's American Valley Ranch Murders & Other Mysteries* by Don Bullis
Helter Skelter: *The True Story of the Manson Murders* by Vincent Bugliosi with Curt Gentry

Mystery

Spider Woman's Daughter by Anne Hillerman
The Last Dance by Lonna Enox
The Forgotten by David Baldacci
This Body of Death by Elizabeth George

Notes from the Library Board

The Annual Meeting of the Hillsboro Community Library was held on February 15 at the HCC. We are happy to say that the Library continues to thrive in its mission to serve the greater Hillsboro community in all its media needs. Highlights of the reports:

- The collection now stands at over 7,000 items
- Funding from grants, memberships, and the bake sale continue to meet the required expenses.
- The present officers and Board were elected to continue on for another year of volunteer service.
- Improvements to the heating system are being planned in conjunction with the Community Center.

We thank all of the membership for their support of the Library.

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, March 19

Hillsboro: 1:00 - 2:00 pm Kingston: 2:30-3:30 pm

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