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The Muralist

By Shapiro, B.A.

Algonquin. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. In the New York City of 1940, a young painter named Alizée Benoit vanishes, in this gripping follow-up to B.A. Shapiro's *The Art Forger*. No one knows what happened to her Jewish family in Occupied France, nor her arts patron and political compatriot Eleanor Roosevelt, nor her friends and fellow WPA artists Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, and Lee Krasner. But some 70 years later her great-niece Danielle Abrams, working at Christie's auction house, uncovers enigmatic paintings hidden behind other works by those now-famous abstract expressionist artists, and wonders if they hold any clues to the questions surrounding her missing aunt. Entwining historical and fictional characters and moving between the past and the present, *The Muralist* plunges into the divisiveness of prewar politics and the plight of European refugees turned away from the United States. Shapiro captures both the inner workings of New York's art scene and the origins of the vibrant and quintessentially American school of Abstract Expressionism. In her unforgettable heroines, Benoit and Abrams, she makes us wonder if great art really does have the power to change the world and what happens when luminous talent collides with unstoppable historical forces...



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