

the golden egg donna leon

The Golden Egg Donna Leon: Exploring the Charm of a Venetian Mystery

the golden egg donna leon is a phrase that immediately conjures images of Venice's labyrinthine canals, historic charm, and the intriguing world of crime fiction. Donna Leon, the acclaimed American author, has captivated readers worldwide with her Commissario Brunetti series, weaving complex mysteries against the backdrop of Venice. Among her many novels, "The Golden Egg" stands out as a title that piques curiosity, inviting fans and new readers alike to delve deeper into the rich tapestry of Leon's storytelling. In this article, we'll explore what makes "The Golden Egg" a notable work, its place within Donna Leon's oeuvre, and why her Venetian mysteries continue to resonate so strongly today.

Understanding The Golden Egg by Donna Leon

To begin, it's important to clarify that "The Golden Egg" as a title is often associated with Donna Leon's storytelling style, though she does not have a novel by that exact name in her famous Commissario Brunetti series. Instead, "The Golden Egg" may be seen as a metaphorical or thematic representation of the treasures hidden within her novels – the golden threads of morality, justice, and human complexity that sparkle beneath the surface of Venice's enigmatic veneer.

Donna Leon's Signature Style

Donna Leon's writing is celebrated for its vivid portrayal of Venetian life, combining the city's stunning aesthetic with sharp social commentary. Her protagonist, Commissario Guido Brunetti, is a thoughtful, compassionate police officer who navigates the murky waters of crime and corruption in Venice with integrity and wit. Leon's novels are more than just whodunits; they are explorations of human nature, societal flaws, and the struggle to maintain personal honor in a world rife with compromise.

In this context, "The Golden Egg" can be interpreted as symbolic of the core values Brunetti upholds – a rare and precious ideal amidst the darker realities he confronts.

Why Readers Are Drawn to Donna Leon's Venetian Mysteries

What sets Donna Leon's work apart is not just the mysteries themselves but

the immersive experience of Venice as both setting and character. Readers feel transported to the city's narrow alleys, bustling markets, and tranquil piazzas. The atmosphere is thick with history, culture, and sometimes, a haunting sadness that reflects the complexities of the crimes Brunetti investigates.

Her novels often address contemporary issues such as environmental degradation, political corruption, and social inequality, making them relevant and thought-provoking. For those searching for a crime novel with depth and an authentic sense of place, Donna Leon's books are a treasure trove.

Thematic Elements in Donna Leon's Work: The Essence of The Golden Egg

Even without a book titled "The Golden Egg" in her bibliography, the theme resonates strongly in her stories. The notion of a "golden egg" – something valuable and rare – aligns well with recurring motifs in Leon's writing.

Justice as a Golden Egg

One of the most compelling themes in Donna Leon's novels is the pursuit of justice. Commissario Brunetti often faces bureaucratic hurdles and societal pressures that challenge his efforts to uphold the law fairly. Justice, in this sense, is the golden egg: a precious ideal that requires care, perseverance, and sometimes sacrifice to protect.

The Golden Egg as a Metaphor for Venice

Venice itself can be viewed as the golden egg – a city of immense beauty and cultural wealth, yet fragile and vulnerable. Leon's writing lovingly preserves Venice's unique character, while also exposing its vulnerabilities, such as tourism's impact, environmental threats, and political corruption. This duality enriches the narrative, making the setting integral to the story's heart.

Exploring Key Characters and Their Roles

No discussion about Donna Leon's storytelling is complete without examining the vibrant cast of characters that populate her novels.

Commissario Guido Brunetti

Brunetti is the moral compass of the series. Intelligent, empathetic, and somewhat reserved, he represents the everyman struggling to do right in a flawed system. His personal life—marked by a loving family and close friendships—adds depth to his character and humanizes the often grim investigations he leads.

Supporting Cast

Characters such as Vice-Questore Patta, the sometimes antagonistic superior; Signorina Elettra, Brunetti's resourceful secretary; and his wife Paola, who provides emotional grounding, all enrich the narrative. Their interactions offer insight into Venetian society and the complexities of law enforcement.

Donna Leon's Impact on the Crime Fiction Genre

Donna Leon has contributed significantly to the popularity and evolution of international crime fiction, particularly the subgenre known as "cozy crime" or "literary crime."

Blending Mystery with Social Commentary

Unlike many traditional detective stories, Leon's novels do not rely solely on plot twists or sensationalism. Instead, they focus on nuanced storytelling that reflects societal issues, making readers think critically about justice, ethics, and humanity. This approach elevates her work beyond mere entertainment.

The Appeal of Setting-Driven Mysteries

Her meticulous depiction of Venice has inspired readers to appreciate setting as a vital narrative element. The city isn't just a backdrop; it shapes the mood, influences the characters' actions, and enriches the overarching themes. This immersive quality is part of what has made the Brunetti series a beloved staple in crime literature.

Reading Tips for Fans Interested in The Golden

Egg Donna Leon

For those intrigued by the phrase "the golden egg donna leon," here are some suggestions to get the most out of her novels:

- **Start with the first Brunetti novel:** "Death at La Fenice" introduces readers to the characters and Venice's atmospheric setting, laying the groundwork for understanding Leon's style.
- **Pay attention to cultural details:** Leon's love for Venice shines through in descriptions of food, art, and daily life, enriching the reading experience.
- **Reflect on the themes:** Beyond the mystery, consider the social critiques and moral questions raised—these add layers to the story.
- **Explore adaptations:** Several of the Brunetti novels have been adapted into television series and audiobooks, offering new ways to enjoy the stories.

Conclusion: The Enduring Allure of Donna Leon's Venice

While "The Golden Egg Donna Leon" might initially suggest a specific title, it more broadly captures the essence of what makes Donna Leon's work so treasured—the golden qualities of her storytelling, her commitment to justice, and her evocative portrayal of Venice. Whether you're a seasoned fan or new to her mysteries, diving into the world she creates offers a richly rewarding journey through crime, culture, and the human spirit. As readers continue to seek stories that combine intrigue with heart, Donna Leon's Venetian mysteries remain a shining gem in the literary landscape.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Golden Egg' by Donna Leon about?

'The Golden Egg' is a short story by Donna Leon that revolves around a mysterious theft and the moral dilemmas faced by the characters, set against the backdrop of Venice.

Is 'The Golden Egg' part of the Commissario Brunetti series?

'The Golden Egg' is not part of the Commissario Guido Brunetti series, which is Donna Leon's most famous work, but it shares similar themes of morality and Venetian culture.

Where is 'The Golden Egg' by Donna Leon set?

Like many of Donna Leon's works, 'The Golden Egg' is set in Venice, Italy, showcasing the city's unique atmosphere and cultural nuances.

What themes are explored in Donna Leon's 'The Golden Egg'?

The story explores themes such as crime and justice, ethics, human nature, and the contrast between appearance and reality.

Can 'The Golden Egg' be read independently of Donna Leon's other works?

Yes, 'The Golden Egg' is a standalone story and can be read independently without prior knowledge of Donna Leon's other novels.

How does Donna Leon's writing style in 'The Golden Egg' compare to her other books?

Donna Leon's writing in 'The Golden Egg' maintains her characteristic clear prose, rich descriptions of Venice, and insightful character development.

Is 'The Golden Egg' available in multiple formats?

'The Golden Egg' is available in print and digital formats, and sometimes included in collections of Donna Leon's short stories.

What makes 'The Golden Egg' a notable work by Donna Leon?

'The Golden Egg' is notable for its concise storytelling, moral complexity, and vivid depiction of Venetian life.

Has 'The Golden Egg' by Donna Leon received critical acclaim?

While not as widely reviewed as her Brunetti series, 'The Golden Egg' has been praised by readers and critics for its intriguing plot and atmospheric

setting.

Where can I purchase or read 'The Golden Egg' by Donna Leon?

'The Golden Egg' can be purchased through major book retailers online or found in libraries, especially within collections of Donna Leon's works.

Additional Resources

The Golden Egg Donna Leon: A Deep Dive into the Venetian Mystery

the golden egg donna leon stands as a captivating entry in the acclaimed Commissario Brunetti series, penned by the American author Donna Leon. Set against the atmospheric backdrop of Venice, this novel intertwines crime, social commentary, and intricate character development, hallmark traits that have made Leon's work resonate with readers worldwide. As part of a long-running series, The Golden Egg not only advances the narrative of Commissario Guido Brunetti but also offers a nuanced exploration of Venetian life, culture, and the human condition.

Exploring The Golden Egg Donna Leon: Context and Significance

Donna Leon's The Golden Egg is not merely a detective novel; it is a literary piece that reflects the complexities of contemporary Venice. Published as part of Leon's ongoing Brunetti series, the book follows the eponymous commissario as he investigates a puzzling case that delves deep into themes of trust, betrayal, and the search for truth. The golden egg motif itself serves as a symbolic thread throughout the narrative, evoking questions of value, mystery, and hidden meanings.

One of the distinguishing features of The Golden Egg Donna Leon is the seamless blending of a procedural crime story with insightful social critique. Leon's portrayal of Venice is multi-dimensional, highlighting both its beauty and its underlying tensions. This approach elevates the novel beyond a conventional mystery, inviting readers to engage with broader societal issues reflected through the lens of a criminal investigation.

The Setting: Venice as a Character

Venice is more than a mere backdrop in The Golden Egg Donna Leon; it is a living, breathing entity influencing every aspect of the story. The city's labyrinthine canals, fading grandeur, and distinct social fabric are

intricately woven into the plot. Leon's descriptive prowess transports readers into the heart of Venice's maze-like streets, creating an immersive experience that enhances the mystery's depth.

The city's duality—its allure and decay—mirrors the novel's central themes. The golden egg itself can be interpreted as a metaphor for Venice's hidden treasures and concealed dangers. This nuanced use of setting distinguishes Donna Leon's work from other detective fiction and has been a key factor in the series' enduring popularity.

Character Development: Commissario Guido Brunetti

Central to the appeal of *The Golden Egg* Donna Leon is the character of Commissario Guido Brunetti. Unlike stereotypical detectives, Brunetti embodies empathy, moral integrity, and intellectual curiosity. His approach to solving crimes is thoughtful and reflective, often involving a deep understanding of human nature rather than reliance on brute force or sensationalism.

In this novel, Brunetti's character is further fleshed out through his interactions with colleagues, family, and suspects. His personal struggles and ethical dilemmas add layers to the narrative, making the investigation more than a procedural task—it becomes a journey into the complexities of justice and humanity.

Literary Style and Narrative Technique

Donna Leon's writing style in *The Golden Egg* is characterized by clarity, subtlety, and a measured pace that aligns with the contemplative nature of the story. The prose avoids unnecessary embellishments, focusing instead on precise language that evokes mood and atmosphere. This restrained style complements the novel's themes and enhances reader engagement by encouraging reflection.

The narrative unfolds through a third-person perspective centered on Brunetti, allowing insight into his thoughts while maintaining an objective distance. This approach balances character intimacy with narrative tension, keeping readers invested in both the mystery and the broader social context.

Use of Symbolism and Themes

Symbolism plays a pivotal role in *The Golden Egg* Donna Leon, with the titular golden egg representing multiple facets of the story. It symbolizes not only the mystery at hand but also broader ideas of value, secrecy, and the search for meaning. This layered symbolism enriches the narrative, offering readers

interpretive depth beyond the surface plot.

Themes of corruption, loyalty, and the clash between tradition and modernity permeate the novel. Leon tactfully explores these issues without resorting to didacticism, instead allowing the characters' experiences and choices to illustrate the novel's moral questions.

Reception and Place within the Commissario Brunetti Series

The Golden Egg Donna Leon has been received positively by both critics and readers, praised for its intelligent plotting and vivid portrayal of Venice. It fits seamlessly into the larger Commissario Brunetti series, which spans over thirty novels, each building on the last in terms of character development and thematic exploration.

Comparatively, The Golden Egg stands out for its balance of suspense and social insight, a trademark of Leon's work that distinguishes her from other authors in the crime fiction genre. The novel appeals to readers who appreciate mysteries grounded in real-world issues, as well as those drawn to atmospheric settings and well-drawn characters.

Pros and Cons of The Golden Egg Donna Leon

- **Pros:** Rich Venetian atmosphere, complex characters, thoughtful social commentary, well-crafted mystery.
- **Cons:** Slower pacing may not appeal to readers seeking fast-paced thrillers; subtle narrative style requires attentive reading.

Impact on Crime Fiction and Literary Value

Donna Leon's The Golden Egg contributes significantly to the evolution of crime fiction by blending traditional detective work with literary sophistication. Its emphasis on character psychology, ethical ambiguity, and cultural context challenges genre conventions and broadens the scope of what crime novels can achieve.

The novel's literary merit lies in its ability to engage readers on multiple levels—as a suspenseful mystery, a character study, and a reflection on societal issues. This multi-layered approach has helped solidify Leon's

reputation as a writer who transcends genre boundaries while maintaining accessibility.

In examining *The Golden Egg Donna Leon*, one recognizes the enduring appeal of stories that combine compelling plots with deeper explorations of place and personhood. The novel invites readers not only to solve a crime but also to contemplate the intricate web of relationships and values that define human experience, all set within the enchanting yet enigmatic city of Venice.

[The Golden Egg Donna Leon](#)

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the golden egg donna leon: *The Golden Egg Donna Leon*, 2014-03-11 At the request of his wife, Commissario Brunetti looks into the death of a deaf, mentally disabled man who worked at their dry-cleaners and uncovers a mystery when the man left no official records and his mother is reluctant to speak to him.

the golden egg donna leon: *The Golden Egg 10c Signed Carton Donna Leon*, 2013-03-01

the golden egg donna leon: *A Sea of Troubles Donna Leon*, 2009-08-25 An Italian police detective looks into the deaths of two fishermen in an isolated island community: "Leon's Venetian mysteries never disappoint." —The New York Times Book Review On a beautiful spring morning on the island of Pellestrina, south of the Lido on the Venetian lagoon, a small boat moored at the docks suddenly explodes, killing two local clam fishermen. When it becomes clear that the fire was deliberately set, Brunetti decides to investigate. But when he tries to dig up information about the murder, the island's tight-knit, closemouthed community closes ranks—forcing Brunetti to accept Signorina Elettra's offer to visit her relatives there to search for clues. On the island, Brunetti finds himself torn between his duty to solve the murders and his concerns for the Signorina's safety. And though he is loyal to his beloved wife, Brunetti's concern for his boss's spirited secretary may be driven by more than platonic feeling . . . "The arrival of a new Donna Leon book fills me with pleasurable anticipation. She tells a good story, including the best of all current police detectives, Commissario Brunetti, and locates it in a superbly described Venice. The plot is beautifully constructed. The climax is exciting and disturbing . . . Brunetti is as irresistible as ever." —The Scotsman "The sophisticated but still moral Brunetti, with his love of food and his loving family, proves a worthy custodian of timeless values and verities." —TheWall Street Journal

the golden egg donna leon: *Suffer the Little Children Donna Leon*, 2007-12-01 An assault on a pediatrician reveals a web of corruption and deception in the New York Times-bestselling, Silver Dagger Award-winning series. When Commissario Brunetti is summoned in the middle of the night to the hospital bed of a senior pediatrician, he is confronted with more questions than answers. Three men—a young Carabinieri captain and two privates from out of town—have burst into the doctor's apartment in the middle of the night, attacked him, and taken away his eighteen-month-old baby boy. What could have motivated an assault by the forces of the state so violent it has left the doctor mute? Who would have authorized such an alarming operation? At the same time, Brunetti's colleague Inspector Vianello discovers a moneymaking scam between pharmacists and doctors in the city. But it appears as if one of the pharmacists is after more than money . . . This is a smart, suspenseful novel in the series set in a beautifully realized Venice, a glorious city seething with

small-town vice. "Leon deserves her place not only with the finest international crime writers (Michael Dibdin and Henning Mankell, for example) but also with literary novelists who explore the agonies of the everyday (Margaret Drabble and Anne Tyler, among others)." —Booklist

the golden egg donna leon: *A Question of Belief* Donna Leon, 2019-04-24 Masterful . . .

Brunetti allows readers to share his belief that decency and honesty can, for a little while, stave off the angst of the modern world. — Publishers Weekly, starred review With his hometown of Venice, Italy, beset by hordes of tourists and baking under a glaring sun, Guido Brunetti's greatest wish is to go to the mountains with his family, where he can sleep under a down comforter and catch up on his reading. But before he can go on vacation, a folder with court records has landed on his desk, brought by an old friend. It appears that cases at the local court—hardly known as a model of efficiency—are being delayed to the benefit of one of the parties. A creative new trick for corrupting the system, perhaps, but what can Brunetti do about it? But just when it looks like Brunetti will be able to get away, a shocking, violent crime forces him to stay in the simmering city, in this atmospheric mystery in the New York Times–bestselling series. Leon creates such a rich sense of place that reading often feels like a slow vaporetto ride through the swelteringly humid canals of Venice, past splendid bridges and palazzi with time out for tramezzini and rich Italian coffee. — The Boston Globe

the golden egg donna leon: *The Anonymous Venetian* Donna Leon, 2002-01-05 Commissario Brunetti's hopes of a refreshing family holiday in the mountains are once again dashed when a gruesome discovery is made in Marghera - a body so badly beaten the face is unrecognizable. Brunetti searches Venice for someone who can identify the dead man. But he is met with a wall of silence. Then he receives a telephone call from a contact who promises some tantalizing information. And before the night is out Brunetti is confronting yet another appalling and apparently senseless death...

the golden egg donna leon: *Falling in Love* Donna Leon, 2019-04-24 An opera singer is terrified by an obsessive fan in this stunning mystery in the New York Times–bestselling series set in Venice, Italy (Library Journal, starred review). Years ago, Guido Brunetti cleared the opera star Flavia Petrelli in the murder of a renowned conductor. Now the soprano is returning to Venice—and its celebrated opera house, La Fenice—to sing the lead in *Tosca*. Brunetti and his wife, Paola, attend an early performance, and Flavia receives a standing ovation. Back in her dressing room, she finds bouquets of yellow roses—too many roses. Every surface of the room is covered with them. An anonymous fan has been showering Flavia with these beautiful gifts in London, St. Petersburg, Amsterdam, and now Venice, but she no longer feels flattered, only frightened. When she confesses her alarm—and then a singer who has caught Flavia's attention is savagely attacked—Brunetti begins to think that Flavia's fears are justified in ways neither of them imagined, and he must enter into the psyche of an obsessive fan . . . From a New York Times–bestselling and Silver Dagger Award–winning author, this is one of the most exquisite and subtle detective series ever (The Washington Post). Another provocative addition to a fine series, certain to appeal to aficionados of profound literary mysteries such as Louise Penny's *How the Light Gets In*. — Library Journal, starred review

the golden egg donna leon: *Through a Glass, Darkly* Donna Leon, 2007-12-01 A New York Times–bestselling series: A murder mystery set on Italy's secretive island of Murano, renowned for its world-famous glass. On a luminous spring day in Venice, Commissario Brunetti and his assistant play hooky from work to help a friend, Marco Ribetti, arrested during an environmental protest. They secure his release, only to be faced by the fury of the man's father-in-law, Giovanni De Cal, a cantankerous glass factory owner who has been heard in the bars of Murano making violent threats about Ribetti. Brunetti's curiosity is piqued, and he finds himself drawn to Murano to investigate. Is De Cal the type of man to carry out his threats? Then one morning the body of De Cal's night watchman is found. Over long lunches, on secret boat rides, in quiet bars, and down narrow streets, Brunetti searches for the killer . . . "One of the best of the international crime writers." —Rocky Mountain News "[A] superlative series." —The New York Times Book Review

the golden egg donna leon: Doctored Evidence Donna Leon, 2007-12-01 "A smart and stylish fast-paced case of intrigue and corruption" in the Venetian-set, New York Times–bestselling mystery series (Los Angeles Times). After a wealthy elderly woman is found brutally murdered in her Venetian apartment, the police suspect her maid, who has disappeared and is heading for her native Romania. But when it becomes clear the maid could not have had time to kill the old woman before catching her train, Guido Brunetti decides—unofficially—to take on the case himself. As his wife reads about the seven deadly sins, Brunetti realizes that this is probably not a crime motivated by greed—rather, the motive may have more to do with the temptations of lust. But perhaps Brunetti is following a false trail and thinking of the wrong sin altogether . . . "The detective's humane police work is disarming, and his ambles through the city are a delight; but it is this peculiar insistence on turning every case into a morality tale that gives Leon's fiction its subtlety and substance and makes us follow Brunetti wherever we must—even into the sea." —The New York Times Book Review "Holds together as an elegant puzzle, as a character study and as a story of an officer's need to reclaim truth in all its complexities from those who want to find easy answers to life's, and death's, perplexing mysteries." —The Washington Post Book World "A compelling and intricate series of events as convoluted and intricate as the canals of Venice itself . . . Another expert mystery." —The Baltimore Sun

the golden egg donna leon: Quietly in Their Sleep Donna Leon, 2009-02-24 A nun has left her convent after a series of suspicious deaths: "Leon's novels are always a pleasure." —The Washington Post In Venice, Italy, Commissario Guido Brunetti comes to the aid of a young Catholic sister, who has left her convent after five of her nursing home patients died unexpectedly. In the course of his inquiries, Brunetti encounters an unusual cast of characters, but discovers nothing that seems criminal. The police detective must determine whether the nun is simply creating a smoke screen to justify abandoning her vocation—or if she has stumbled onto something very real and very sinister that places her own life in imminent danger. "Leon's books shimmer in the grace of their setting and are warmed by the charm of their characters." —The New York Times Book Review Also published under the title *The Death of Faith*

the golden egg donna leon: The Golden Egg Donna Leon, 2013-04-02 A New York Times bestseller: "Brunetti amply displays the keen intelligence and wry humor that has endeared this series to so many." —Publishers Weekly Commissario Brunetti's latest assignment is to look into a minor shop-keeping violation committed by the mayor's future daughter-in-law. Brunetti has no interest in helping his boss amass political favors, but has little choice but to comply. Then Brunetti's wife comes to him with a request of her own. The sweet, simple-minded man who worked at their dry cleaner has just died of a sleeping pill overdose, and Paola loathes the idea that he lived and died without anyone noticing him, or helping him. Brunetti begins to investigate and is surprised when he finds nothing on the man: no birth certificate, no passport, no driver's license, no credit cards. As far as the Italian government is concerned, he never existed. Stranger still, the dead man's mother refuses to speak to the police. And as secrets unravel, Brunetti begins to suspect that an aristocratic family might be somehow connected to the mystery . . . "Leon's success . . . is testament to the heartening fact that character counts in crime fiction." —Booklist, starred review

the golden egg donna leon: The Girl of His Dreams Donna Leon, 2008-05-13 Two detectives go undercover in Venice, Italy, in the New York Times–bestselling series by "the undisputed crime fiction queen" (The Baltimore Sun). A priest recently returned from years of missionary work has made a personal request of Commissario Guido Brunetti—but the police detective suspects the man's motives. A new, American-style Protestant sect has begun to meet in Venice, and it's possible the priest is merely apprehensive of the competition. But the preacher could also be fleecing his growing flock, so Brunetti and Inspector Vianello, along with their wives, decide to go undercover. In the midst of the investigation, though, the body of a Gypsy child washes up in a canal—and Brunetti finds himself haunted by both the crime and the girl . . . "No one knows the labyrinthine world of Venice or the way favoritism and corruption shape Italian life like Leon's Brunetti . . . the thoughtful Venetian cop with a love of food, an outspoken wife, and a computer-hacker secretary."

—Time “Gorgeously written.” —The New York Times Book Review

the golden egg donna leon: *Blood from a Stone* Donna Leon, 2007-12-01 When an immigrant dies on a Venice street, it will take a determined detective to pursue the case to its shocking end: “[An] outstanding series.” —Marilyn Stasio, The New York Times Book Review On a cold Venetian night shortly before Christmas, a street vendor is killed in a scuffle in Campo San Stefano. The closest witnesses to the event are the tourists who had been browsing the man’s wares before his death—fake handbags of every designer label. The dead man was one of the many African immigrants purveying goods outside normal shop hours and trading without a work permit. Once Commissario Guido Brunetti begins to investigate this unfamiliar Venetian underworld, he discovers that matters of great value are at stake within the secretive society. And his boss’s warning to avoid getting involved only makes Brunetti more determined to unearth the truth behind this mysterious killing. “[A] stunning novel . . . an engrossing, complex plot.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review “The appeal of Guido Brunetti, the hero of Donna Leon’s long-running Venetian crime series, comes not from his shrewdness, though he is plenty shrewd, nor from his quick wit. It comes, instead, from his role as an Everyman . . . [his life is] not so different from our own days at the office or nights around the dinner table. Crime fiction for those willing to grapple with, rather than escape, the uncertainties of daily life.” —Booklist

the golden egg donna leon: Trace Elements Donna Leon, 2020-03-03 The New York Times-bestselling author of *Unto Us a Son Is Given* continues one of the most exquisite and subtle detective series ever (The Washington Post). When a dying hospice patient gasps that her husband was murdered over bad money, Commissario Brunetti softly promises he and his colleague, Claudia Griffoni, will look into what initially appears to be a private family tragedy. They discover that the man had worked in the field, collecting samples of contamination for a company that measures the cleanliness of Venice’s water supply, and that he had recently died in a mysterious motorcycle accident. Piecing together the tangled threads, Brunetti comes to realize the perilous meaning in the woman’s accusation and the threat it reveals to the health of the entire region. But justice in this case proves to be ambiguous, as Brunetti is reminded it can be when he reads Aeschylus’s classic play *The Eumenides*. Praise for Donna Leon’s Commissario Brunetti Mysteries [Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation. —Ursula K. LeGuin, author of *Dancing at the Edge of the World* You become so wrapped up in these compelling characters. . . . Each one is better than the last. —Louise Erdrich, winner of the National Book Award for Fiction Leon’s Venetian mysteries never disappoint, calling up the romantic sights and sounds of La Serenissima even as they acquaint us with the practical matters that concern the city’s residents. —The New York Times Book Review The sophisticated but still moral Brunetti, with his love of food and his loving family, proves a worthy custodian of timeless values and verities. —The Wall Street Journal

the golden egg donna leon: The Jewels of Paradise Donna Leon, 2012-10-02 The New York Times-bestselling author of the Commissario Guido Brunetti series takes readers beyond the Venice police force in her first standalone novel. Caterina Pellegrini is a native Venetian, and like so many of them, she’s had to leave home to pursue her career. With a doctorate in baroque opera from Vienna, she lands in Manchester, England. Manchester, however, is no Venice. When Caterina gets word of a position back home, she jumps at the opportunity. The job is an unusual one. After nearly three centuries, two locked trunks—believed to contain the papers of a baroque composer—have been discovered. Deeply connected in religious and political circles, the composer died childless; now, two Venetians, descendants of his cousins, each claim the inheritance. Caterina’s job is to examine any enclosed papers to discover the “testamentary disposition” of the composer. But when her research takes her in unexpected directions, she begins to wonder just what secrets these trunks may hold. From a masterful writer, *The Jewels of Paradise* is a superb novel, a gripping tale of intrigue, music, history, and greed. “Commissario Brunetti is allowed to take a vacation once in a while, but only if his replacements are as wry and erudite as Caterina.” —The Washington Post “Fascinating . . . Boasts the same sensitivity to human behavior that distinguishes her Guido

Brunetti series.” —Booklist “A veteran mystery maven weaves present-day Venice into a 300-year-old puzzle in this engaging stand-alone . . . Packs the charms of Venice into a smart whodunit.” —Kirkus Reviews “Elegant prose, with humorous, wonderfully detailed descriptions as seen through the eyes of her heroine.” —Opera News

the golden egg donna leon: Death in a Strange Country Donna Leon, 2008-12-30 The New York Times bestselling series continues with the murder of an American soldier in Venice: “This is definitely an author to watch (Kirkus Reviews). Early one morning, Commissario Guido Brunetti of the Venice police confronts a grisly sight when the body of a young man is fished out of a fetid canal. All clues point to a violent mugging, but for Brunetti the motive of robbery seems altogether too convenient. When something discovered in the victim’s apartment suggests the existence of a high-level conspiracy, Brunetti becomes convinced that somebody, somewhere, is taking great pains to provide a ready-made solution to the crime. Rich with atmosphere and marvelous plotting, *Death in a Strange Country* is a superb novel in Donna Leon’s chilling Venetian mystery series. Praise for Donna Leon and the Commissario Brunetti Mysteries “One of the best international crime writers is Donna Leon, and her Commissario Guido Brunetti tales set in Venice are at the apex of continental thrillers.” —Rocky Mountain News “Leon’s books shimmer in the grace of their setting and are warmed by the charm of her characters.” —The New York Times Book Review “Brunetti . . . long ago joined the ranks of the classic fictional detectives.” —Evening Standard “Commissario Brunetti, most charismatic current Euro-cop, uncovers deadly ants’ nest of corruption. A highly accomplished, scary read.” —The Guardian

the golden egg donna leon: Unto Us a Son Is Given Donna Leon, 2019-12-13 The New York Times bestseller: Venice shines through the pages of this novel. . . . Coupled with unexpected twists and turns [it] doesn’t disappoint (Tulsa Book Review). A Los Angeles Times Bestseller • A Library Journal Mystery Bestseller • A Booklist Best Crime Novel of the Year • A Crime Reads Most Anticipated Book of the Year Guido Brunetti is urged by his father-in-law to investigate—and preferably intervene in—the seemingly innocent plan of the elderly Gonzalo Rodríguez de Tejada to adopt a much younger man as his son. Under Italian inheritance laws, this man would then be heir to Gonzalo’s entire fortune, a prospect Gonzalo’s friends find appalling. For his part, Brunetti wonders why the old man, a close family friend, can’t be allowed his pleasure in peace. And yet, what seems innocent on the Venetian surface can cause tsunamis below. Gonzalo unexpectedly drops dead on the street, and one of his friends—who just arrived in Venice for the memorial service—is strangled in her hotel room. Now with an urgent case to solve, Brunetti reluctantly untangles the long-hidden mystery in Gonzalo’s life that has ultimately led to murder . . . a resolution that brings him more pain than satisfaction. Like Louise Penny, Leon has cultivated an utterly devoted audience, ever anxious to get to know more about her characters. — Booklist (starred review) Redolent, as always, with the sights, smells, sounds, and mealtimes of the water-immersed city. . . . In Leon’s latest, a pleasantly deceptive lull . . . is dissolved with deadly force. — The Seattle Review of Books

the golden egg donna leon: Donna Leon Costco Assort Donna Leon, 2013-11-18

the golden egg donna leon: Drawing Conclusions Donna Leon, 2011-04-05 “A brilliant writer . . . an immensely likable police detective who takes every murder to heart.” —Marilyn Stasio, The New York Times Book Review Late one night, Guido Brunetti is called away from dinner to investigate the death of a widow in her modest apartment. Though there are some signs of a struggle, the medical examiner rules that she died of a heart attack. It seems there is nothing for Brunetti to investigate. But he can’t shake the feeling that something or someone may have triggered her heart attack, that perhaps the woman was threatened. Conversations with the woman’s son, her upstairs neighbor, and the nun in charge of the old age home where she volunteered do little to satisfy Brunetti’s nagging curiosity. And with the help of Inspector Vianello and the ever-resourceful Signorina Elettra, he intends to get to the truth. “One of her best . . . She has become a must-read for all those who favor character-driven crime stories.” —Booklist, starred review “[A] wickedly entertaining series.” —Publishers Weekly

the golden egg donna leon: Uniform Justice Donna Leon, 2007-12-01 A wall of silence

surrounds a cadet's death at an elite military academy: "Superb . . . This is an outstanding book." —Publishers Weekly Detective Commissario Guido Brunetti has been called to investigate a parent's worst nightmare. A young cadet has been found hanged, a presumed suicide, in Venice's elite military academy. Brunetti's sorrow for the boy, so close in age to his own son, is rivaled only by his contempt for a community that is more concerned with protecting the reputation of the school, and its privileged students, than understanding this tragedy. The young man is the son of a doctor and former politician—a man of impeccable integrity, all too rare in politics. Dr. Moro is clearly devastated; but while both he and his apparently estranged wife seem convinced that the boy's death could not have been suicide, neither appears eager to talk to the police or involve Brunetti in any investigation of the circumstances in which he died. As Brunetti pursues his inquiry, he is faced with a wall of silence. Is the military protecting its own? And what of the other witnesses? Is this the natural reluctance of Italians to involve themselves with the authorities, or is Brunetti facing a conspiracy far greater than this one death? "Brunetti is a compelling character, a good man trying to stay on the honest path in a devious and twisted world." —The Baltimore Sun

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