

the good thief by hannah tinti

The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti: A Captivating Tale of Redemption and Adventure

the good thief by hannah tinti is a novel that effortlessly blends adventure, mystery, and heartwarming themes of family and identity. If you're a fan of historical fiction with a twist of grit and charm, this book is a must-read. Hannah Tinti's storytelling transports readers into a vividly rendered 19th-century world filled with lovable characters, unexpected twists, and a narrative that keeps you hooked from start to finish.

Exploring The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti: What Makes It Stand Out

One of the reasons why *the good thief by hannah tinti* has garnered so much praise is its unique protagonist, Ren, an orphan with a missing finger and an indomitable spirit. Unlike typical heroes, Ren is flawed yet endearing, making his journey all the more relatable and compelling. Tinti's prose is both lyrical and accessible, weaving a tale that's suitable for readers young and old alike.

A Rich Historical Setting That Breathes Life into the Story

The backdrop of the novel is an unnamed New England town during the early 1800s, a period ripe with social challenges and colorful characters. Tinti's meticulous research shines through in her detailed descriptions of the setting, from the bustling streets to the shadowy corners where secrets hide. This historical immersion is one of the LSI keywords often associated with *the good thief by hannah tinti* — historical fiction, 19th-century adventure, period setting — and it helps readers feel truly embedded in the world she creates.

The Narrative Arc: Adventure, Mystery, and the Quest for Identity

Ren's story in *the good thief by hannah tinti* is not just about survival; it's about discovering where he belongs and what family really means. The plot follows Ren as he is taken under the wing of Benjamin Nab, a charismatic con man who teaches him the art of thievery. This dynamic relationship adds layers of complexity, raising questions about morality and the blurred lines between right and wrong.

Themes of Family and Forgiveness

At its core, *the good thief by hannah tinti* delves deeply into themes of family, belonging, and redemption. Ren's quest to find his long-lost twin brother drives much of the emotional weight of the novel. Readers are drawn into his internal struggles and triumphs, learning alongside him the true meaning of kinship beyond blood ties.

Why Readers Love the Good Thief by Hannah Tinti

There's a warmth to the novel that sets it apart from many adventure tales. The characters are richly

drawn, from the villains to the quirky townsfolk, each contributing to the tapestry of the story. The good thief by hannah tinti also appeals to fans of literary fiction who appreciate nuanced character development and evocative storytelling.

Stylistic Elements and Writing Style

Hannah Tinti's narrative voice is distinctive — a blend of gentle humor, suspense, and poetic imagery. Her ability to balance fast-paced action scenes with reflective moments is impressive, making the good thief by hannah tinti an engaging read that never feels rushed. This balance is crucial in maintaining reader interest, especially in a novel that merges multiple genres like mystery, historical fiction, and coming-of-age.

The Characters: More than Just Figures on a Page

Ren is undoubtedly the heart of the book, but supporting characters like Benjamin Nab and Ren's eventual allies bring depth and variety to the narrative. Each character feels real, with motivations and flaws that make them memorable. This character-driven approach enriches the story, allowing readers to invest emotionally in their journeys.

The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti in the Context of Modern Literature

In a time when many novels focus on dystopian or fantasy worlds, the good thief by hannah tinti offers a refreshing return to historical fiction grounded in human experience. It also aligns with a growing trend of novels featuring unlikely heroes and morally complex characters. For readers looking to explore themes of resilience and hope through historical lenses, this book is a standout choice.

Tips for Readers New to Hannah Tinti's Work

If you're diving into the good thief by hannah tinti for the first time, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- Pay close attention to the historical details; they enrich the story and provide context for characters' actions.
- Take your time with the dialogue—Tinti's use of period-appropriate language adds authenticity.
- Reflect on Ren's moral dilemmas as they offer deeper insights into the human condition.
- Consider reading with a group or book club, as the novel's themes spark thoughtful discussions.

The Impact and Reception of The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti

Since its publication, *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti has received critical acclaim for its originality and emotional depth. It has been praised by literary critics and readers alike, earning spots on various bestseller lists and literary award nominations. The novel's ability to appeal to a broad audience, from young adults to seasoned readers, speaks volumes about its universal themes and engaging storytelling.

What Readers Can Expect Beyond the Plot

Beyond its adventurous storyline, *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti invites readers to ponder questions about identity and morality. Is it possible to be both a thief and a good person? How do our pasts shape our futures? These questions linger long after the last page, making the novel a thoughtful companion for anyone interested in stories that challenge preconceived notions about right and wrong.

Exploring Similar Works and Further Reading

For readers who enjoyed *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti and want to explore similar themes, there are several novels worth checking out:

- *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens – A classic tale of an orphan navigating a harsh world.
- *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern – For a blend of mystery and magical realism.
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak – Another story about a young protagonist facing difficult circumstances.
- *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke – A youthful adventure with themes of family and survival.

These books share the qualities of rich character development and moral complexity found in *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti.

In the end, *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti stands as a testament to the power of storytelling that combines historical authenticity with timeless human themes. Whether you're drawn to gripping adventures, heartwarming tales of family, or profound explorations of identity, this novel offers a rewarding experience that lingers in the heart and mind.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central plot of 'The Good Thief' by Hannah Tinti?

The Good Thief follows the story of Ren, a young orphan with only one hand, who is taken in by a

mysterious con man named Benjamin Nab. Together, they embark on a journey filled with adventure, deception, and the search for identity.

How does Hannah Tinti explore themes of identity and belonging in 'The Good Thief'?

Hannah Tinti explores themes of identity and belonging through Ren's struggle to understand his past and find a place where he fits in. His journey with Benjamin Nab highlights the complexities of family, trust, and self-discovery.

What genre does 'The Good Thief' by Hannah Tinti belong to?

The Good Thief is a historical adventure novel with elements of coming-of-age and mystery, often categorized as literary fiction with a strong narrative focus on character development and suspense.

What makes the relationship between Ren and Benjamin Nab compelling in 'The Good Thief'?

The relationship is compelling because it is built on a mix of mentorship, deception, and genuine care. Benjamin acts as a protector and guide for Ren, but their bond is complicated by secrets and the morally ambiguous world they navigate.

How has 'The Good Thief' been received by critics and readers?

The Good Thief has been praised for its engaging storytelling, richly drawn characters, and its blend of adventure and emotional depth. Critics often highlight Hannah Tinti's skillful prose and the novel's ability to balance suspense with heartfelt moments.

Additional Resources

The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti: A Literary Exploration of Identity and Morality

the good thief by hannah tinti emerges as a compelling narrative that intertwines themes of identity, morality, and survival within a richly crafted historical setting. Since its publication, this novel has attracted critical attention for its intricate character development and atmospheric storytelling. As a work that straddles the line between literary fiction and historical adventure, The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti invites readers to delve into a world where the boundaries between right and wrong are perpetually blurred.

In-depth Analysis of The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti

Set in 19th-century America, *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti follows the journey of Ren, a young orphan with a missing finger, who is taken under the wing of a pair of con artists. The novel unfolds against the backdrop of a gritty, often harsh world, where survival depends on cunning, adaptability, and moral flexibility. Tinti's narrative style is both evocative and precise, capturing the nuances of a historical period seldom explored with such intimacy in contemporary fiction.

The novel's strength lies in its exploration of identity, particularly how Ren negotiates his sense of self amid the duplicity surrounding him. As Ren navigates various challenges, he confronts questions about trust, belonging, and the nature of goodness. This thematic focus is accentuated by Tinti's skillful use of language, which balances lyrical prose with gritty realism, offering a narrative voice that is at once engaging and thought-provoking.

Characterization and Moral Ambiguity

One of the most striking features of *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti is its nuanced portrayal of characters who inhabit the gray areas of morality. Ren, the protagonist, is neither a conventional hero nor a straightforward anti-hero; instead, he embodies the complexities of a boy shaped by hardship and deception. His mentors, the con artists Benjamin and Tahir, further complicate the moral landscape, as their motivations oscillate between selfish gain and genuine care.

This ambiguity challenges readers to reconsider simplistic notions of good and evil. Through Ren's eyes, acts of theft and deception are not merely criminal but survival mechanisms in a world that offers limited options for the vulnerable. Tinti's narrative thus prompts an investigation into the ethics of survival and the societal structures that define criminality.

Historical Context and Setting

The historical setting of *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti is meticulously rendered, with vivid descriptions that immerse the reader in 19th-century New England. The authenticity of the period details—from clothing and vernacular speech to social hierarchies and urban landscapes—enhances the novel's credibility and enriches its thematic depth.

This attention to historical accuracy serves multiple functions: it grounds the story in a tangible reality, contextualizes the characters' struggles within broader social dynamics, and invites comparisons with other works of historical fiction. Unlike some period novels that prioritize romanticized depictions, Tinti's approach is unflinching, acknowledging the hardships and moral complexities of the era.

Thematic Elements and Literary Techniques

The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti is notable for weaving several thematic strands that resonate beyond the confines of its historical setting. Themes of abandonment, resilience, and the search for identity are intricately layered throughout the narrative. Tinti's use of symbolism—such as Ren's missing finger—serves as a constant reminder of loss and the incomplete nature of identity.

Moreover, the novel employs a narrative structure that balances tension and revelation. The pacing is deliberate, allowing moments of quiet introspection to contrast with scenes of action and suspense. This rhythm keeps readers engaged while providing space to reflect on the ethical dilemmas presented.

Comparative Perspectives

In comparison to other contemporary historical novels, The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti stands out for its fusion of adventure and psychological depth. While novels like *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern offer a more fantastical approach to period settings, Tinti roots her story firmly in realism, akin to works by authors such as Ann Patchett or Elizabeth Strout.

Additionally, the novel's focus on a young protagonist navigating a morally ambiguous world invites parallels with classics like Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. However, Tinti's narrative diverges by imbuing Ren's story with a modern sensibility that challenges traditional notions of innocence and villainy.

Pros and Cons of The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti

- **Pros:** Rich character development; immersive historical setting; exploration of complex moral themes; engaging narrative style.
- **Cons:** At times, the pacing may feel slow for readers seeking fast-paced action; moral ambiguity might not appeal to those preferring clear-cut heroes and villains.

Reception and Impact

Since its release, The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti has garnered a dedicated readership and critical acclaim. Its recognition includes nominations for literary awards and positive reviews highlighting its originality

and emotional resonance. The novel's impact is evident in discussions within literary circles about the portrayal of morality and identity in historical fiction.

Moreover, the book's appeal extends beyond literary enthusiasts to readers interested in stories of personal growth and ethical complexity. Its ability to appeal across diverse audiences underscores its significance within contemporary American literature.

The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti ultimately serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring human struggle to define oneself amidst external chaos and internal conflicts. Through its layered narrative and compelling characters, the novel invites readers not only to witness a captivating story but also to reflect on the broader questions of what it means to be good in an imperfect world.

The Good Thief By Hannah Tinti

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the good thief by hannah tinti: The Good Thief Hannah Tinti, 2008-08-26 Richly imagined, gothically spooky, and replete with the ingenious storytelling ability of a born novelist, *The Good Thief* introduces one of the most appealing young heroes in contemporary fiction and ratifies Hannah Tinti as one of our most exciting new talents. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review • The Washington Post • San Francisco Chronicle • Kirkus Reviews Winner of the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and an American Library Association Alex Award Twelve year-old Ren is missing his left hand. How it was lost is a mystery that Ren has been trying to solve for his entire life, as well as who his parents are, and why he was abandoned as an infant at Saint Anthony's Orphanage for boys. He longs for a family to call his own and is terrified of the day he will be sent alone into the world. But then a young man named Benjamin Nab appears, claiming to be Ren's long-lost brother, and his convincing tale of how Ren lost his hand and his parents persuades the monks at the orphanage to release the boy and to give Ren some hope. But is Benjamin really who he says he is? Journeying through a New England of whaling towns and meadowed farmlands, Ren is introduced to a vibrant world of hardscrabble adventure filled with outrageous scam artists, grave robbers, and petty thieves. If he stays, Ren becomes one of them. If he goes, he's lost once again. As Ren begins to find clues to his hidden parentage he comes to suspect that Benjamin not only holds the key to his future, but to his past as well. Praise for *The Good Thief* Every once in a while—if you are very lucky—you come upon a novel so marvelous and enchanting and rare that you wish everyone in the world would read it, as well. *The Good Thief* is just such a book—a beautifully composed work of literary magic.—Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love* Darkly transporting . . . [In] *The Good Thief*, the reader can find plain-spoken fiction full of traditional virtues: strong plotting, pure lucidity, visceral momentum and a total absence of writerly mannerisms. In Ms. Tinti's case that means an American Dickensian tale with touches of Harry Potterish whimsy, along with a macabre streak of spooky New England history.—New York Times

the good thief by hannah tinti: The Good Thief Hannah Tinti, 2008 Set in the wild, seamy and

extremely strange America of the nineteenth century: a historical novel so brilliantly-written, so richly involving and so touching that you never want it to end. Young Ren is missing his parents and a hand and doesn't know what happened to any of them. So he is beginning to fear that he will never be claimed from his cold New England orphanage: that his dream of a family - of a life - will come to nothing. But one day a glamorous stranger arrives at the orphanage. To Ren's astonishment, the handsome, charming Benjamin Nab says he is his brother. He says he has come to bring him home. And even when his stories grow more and more extraordinary, when he puts Ren's life in danger again and again and sets him first to theft and then to grave-robbing, Ren cannot quite abandon hope. That one day all the hunger and danger and unwanted excitement will be worth it, that he will find a family, at last. But whether Benjamin is to be trusted is another story...

the good thief by hannah tinti: *Study Guide* Supersummary, 2019-08-25 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 111-page guide for *The Good Thief: A Novel* by Hannah Tinti includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 35 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Crime and Redemption and Loss and Recovery.

the good thief by hannah tinti: A Good Hard Look Ann Napolitano, 2012-06-26 From the New York Times bestselling author of *Hello Beautiful* and *Dear Edward*, a novel set in Flannery O'Connor's hometown of Milledgeville, and a tragedy that forever alters the town and the author herself A wholly believable world shaped by duty, small pleasures, and fateful choices.—O, The Oprah Magazine Forced by illness to leave behind a successful life in New York, literary icon Flannery O'Connor has returned to her family farm in the small town of Milledgeville, Georgia. With her health and time both limited, all she wants is to be left alone to write. But Flannery's plans are soon upended by Melvin Whiteson, a banker from Manhattan who has recently married the town belle. Melvin is at loose ends with his new life; though he has every opportunity, he's not sure where to begin. Flannery knows exactly what she wants, but is running out of time. Through their unusual and clandestine friendship, both will come to reflect on the decisions they have made and the paths they have chosen. Literary history and fiction gracefully intersect in this emotionally charged novel of small town Southern life from one of our most beloved novelists, which asks us all to consider how we can live our lives to the fullest.

the good thief by hannah tinti: Good on Paper Rachel Cantor, 2016 Is a new life possible? Shira is a permanent temp with a few short stories published in minor literary magazines and a PhD on Dante's *Vita Nuova* that she abandoned halfway. Her life has some happy certainties, though: she lives with her friend Ahmad, and her daughter, Andi, on the Upper West Side. They're an unconventional family, but a real one, with Friday night dinner rituals, private jokes and the shared joys and strains of any other family. A deft, funny, and big-hearted novel about second chances, *Good On Paper* is a grand story of family, friendship and possibility.

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the good thief by hannah tinti: The Happiest People in the World Brock Clarke, 2015-06-30 "[A] dark and funny satire . . . Infidelities, secret identities and double-crosses . . . Reflects the

absurdity of any country obsessed with spying on its own people.” —The Wall Street Journal Take the format of a spy thriller, shape it around real-life incidents involving international terrorism, leaven it with dark, dry humor, toss in a love rectangle, give everybody a gun, and let everything play out in the outer reaches of upstate New York--there you have an idea of Brock Clarke’s new novel. Filled with wonder and anger in almost equal parts, *The Happiest People in the World* is a ripped-from-the-headlines tale of paranoia and the all-American obsession with security and the conspiracies that threaten it. “A literary first: a book that feels like the love child of Saul Bellow and Hogan’s Heroes, full of authorial cartwheels of comedy and profundity.” —GQ “*The Happiest People in the World* begins with a raucous bar scene featuring party streamers, smoke, prone bodies, spilled fluids and a stuffed moose with a surveillance camera in its left eye . . . [Clarke has] success in dreaming up oddball originals that have instant appeal.” —Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* “[Clarke] creates books that taste like delicious cuts of absurdity marbled with erudition.” —The Washington Post “A whiz-bang spy satire bundled in an edgy tale of redemption . . . His comedy of errors is impossible to put down.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review “A darkly hilarious novel . . . The writing is clever, the dialogue snappy and understated, and the effect is as pleasantly unsettling as anything Kurt Vonnegut Jr. ever wrote.” —The Portland Sun “A zany and fast-paced book that explores the myriad ways people of all nations make themselves and others unhappy.” —Chicago Tribune, Printer’s Row “Ranks among the funniest and most relevant social satires I’ve read . . . It might just make you the happiest reader in the world.” —The Dallas Morning News

the good thief by hannah tinti: *Writer's Market 2010* Caroline Taggart, 2010-06-30 THE MOST TRUSTED GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED Written by writers for writers and backed by 89 years of authority, *Writer's Market* is the #1 resource for helping writers sell their work. Used by both seasoned professionals and writers new to the publishing world, *Writer's Market* has helped countless writers transform their love of writing from a hobby into a career. Nowhere else but in the 2010 *Writer's Market* will you find the most comprehensive and reliable information you need. This new edition includes: Complete, up-to-date contact information and submission guidelines for more than 3,500 market listings, including literary agents, book publishers, magazines, newspapers, production companies, theaters, greeting card companies, and more. Informative interviews, helpful tips and instructional articles on the business of writing. The How Much Should I Charge? pay rate charts for professional freelancers. Sample good and bad queries in the Query Letter Clinic. Easy-to-use format and tabbed pages so you can quickly locate the information you need!

the good thief by hannah tinti: *The Nicotine Chronicles* Lee Child, 2025-07-01 Lee Child recruits Joyce Carol Oates, Jonathan Ames, Cara Black, and others to reveal nicotine's scintillating alter egos. Sixteen tributes to America's guiltiest pleasure . . . Even confirmed anti-smokers will find something to savor. — Kirkus Reviews In recent years, nicotine has become as verboten as many hard drugs. The literary styles in this volume are as varied as the moral quandaries herein, and the authors have successfully unleashed their incandescent imaginations on the subject matter, fashioning an immensely addictive collection.

the good thief by hannah tinti: *Making home* Maria Holmgren Troy, Elizabeth Kella, Helena Wahlstrom, 2016-05-16 *Making home* explores the figure of the orphan child in a broad selection of contemporary US novels by popular and critically acclaimed authors Barbara Kingsolver, Linda Hogan, Leslie Marmon Silko, Marilynne Robinson, Michael Cunningham, Jonathan Safran Foer, John Irving, Kaye Gibbons, Octavia Butler, Jewelle Gomez and Toni Morrison. The orphan child is a continuous presence in US literature, not only in children’s books and nineteenth-century texts, but also in a variety of genres of contemporary fiction for adults. *Making home* examines the meanings of this figure in the contexts of American literary history, social history and ideologies of family, race and nation. It argues that contemporary orphan characters function as links to literary history and national mythologies, even as they may also serve to critique the limits of literary history, as well as the limits of familial and national belonging.

the good thief by hannah tinti: *Carry the Sky* Kate Gray, 2014-09-01 Kate Gray takes an unblinking look at bullying in her debut novel, *Carry the Sky*. It’s 1983 at an elite Delaware boarding

school. Taylor Alta, the new rowing coach, arrives reeling from the death of the woman she loved. Physics teacher Jack Song, the only Asian American on campus, struggles with his personal code of honor when he gets too close to a student. These two young, lonely teachers narrate the story of a strange and brilliant thirteen-year-old boy who draws atomic mushroom clouds on his notebook, pings through the corridors like a pinball, and develops a crush on an older girl with secrets of her own. Carry the Sky sings a brave and honest anthem about what it means to be different in a world of uniformity.

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the good thief by hannah tinti: **The Believer** , 2008

the good thief by hannah tinti: The Nervous System Nathan Larson, 2012-07-03 This detective story set in a dystopian New York stars “a seriously weird dude . . . A good time for fans of the likes of Charlie Huston and Charles Stross” (Kirkus Reviews). Nicknamed Dewey Decimal for his obsessive attempts to bring order to the New York Public Library in the wake of disastrous events in the city, the hero of this series earns his keep as a bagman and enforcer for unscrupulous politicians and underworld figures. Now, he’s stumbled upon information concerning the gruesome murder of a prostitute that involves a prominent US senator—and finds himself chasing ghosts and fighting for his life, pursued by private military contractors and the ever-present specter of his own past . . . “Larson’s vividly imagined world and his quirky narrator are likely to win him a cadre of loyal fans.” —Publishers Weekly “This intellectual giddy riot is the book of the year . . . The mystery is taken to a whole new level of technospeak artistry, and wonderfully witty, like John Kennedy Toole if he’d written a mystery novel and did meth—a lot of it. The warmth of the character seeps through in Dewey Decimal’s love for a devastated New York . . . The most original PI since Marlowe. OCD never seemed so compelling. Loved it—and then some. What a writer.” —Ken Bruen, author of Headstone “I’m a sucker for a postapocalyptic setting, and Nathan Larson’s is a doozy; but the real gold here is the voice. I could listen to this guy all day.” —S. J. Rozan, Edgar Award-winning author of the Bill Smith/Lydia Chin series

the good thief by hannah tinti: Knockout John Jodzio, 2016-03-01 The work of John Jodzio has already made waves across the literary community. Some readers noticed his nimble blending of humor with painful truths reminded them of George Saunders. His creativity and fresh voice reminded others of Wells Tower’s *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned*. But with his new collection, Jodzio creates a class of his own. *Knockout* is the unified collection of stories that create flawless portraits of deeply flawed figures on the edge of the American Dream. A recovering drug addict gets tricked into stealing a tiger. A man buys a used sex chair from his neighbor. A woman suffering from agoraphobia raises her son completely indoors. An alcoholic runs a bed and breakfast with the son from his deceased wife’s first marriage. These people will admit that their chances have passed them by. These people know they were born on the wrong side of the tracks, and their dreams will remain unreachable, but that doesn’t stop them from dreaming. Yet readers won’t be fooled by the funny premises —Jodzio steers these stories into deeper places, creating a brilliant examination of those on the fringes of modern life. With its quirky humor, compelling characters, and unexpected sincerity, *Knockout* by John Jodzio is poised to become his breakout book, drawing a wide readership to this provocative and talented young writer.

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the good thief by hannah tinti: **My Bright Midnight** Josh Russell, 2010-08-24 Things are going Walter Schmidt’s way -- he loves his wife, he likes his job, and he’s enjoying New Orleans in

springtime -- and then one April morning in 1945 he catches his wife in bed with his best friend, a betrayal that sets in motion a series of events more dangerous and complicated than Walter could ever imagine. Set against a backdrop of a nation exhausted by war, in a decadent city that's been denied its butter, sugar, and Mardi Gras, *My Bright Midnight* is a novel about the complications of loyalties to country, to friends, and to those we love.

the good thief by hannah tinti: *The Lonely Polygamist: A Novel* Brady Udall, 2010-05-03 A New York Times bestseller: Udall masterfully portrays the hapless foibles and tragic yearnings of our fellow humans. —San Francisco Chronicle Golden Richards, husband to four wives, father to twenty-eight children, is having the mother of all midlife crises. His construction business is failing, his family has grown into an overpopulated mini-dukedom beset with insurrection and rivalry, and he is done in with grief: due to the accidental death of a daughter and the stillbirth of a son, he has come to doubt the capacity of his own heart. Brady Udall, one of our finest American fiction writers, tells a tragicomic story of a deeply faithful man who, crippled by grief and the demands of work and family, becomes entangled in an affair that threatens to destroy his family's future. Like John Irving and Richard Yates, Udall creates characters that engage us to the fullest as they grapple with the nature of need, love, and belonging. Beautifully written, keenly observed, and ultimately redemptive, *The Lonely Polygamist* is an unforgettable story of an American family—with its inevitable dysfunctionality, heartbreak, and comedy—pushed to its outer limits.

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