

donna leon the golden egg

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

donna leon the golden egg is a phrase that excites fans of crime fiction and lovers of atmospheric detective stories alike. Donna Leon, the acclaimed American author, has captivated readers worldwide with her series featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti, a thoughtful and morally grounded detective working in the labyrinthine city of Venice. Among her many works, "The Golden Egg" stands out as a compelling entry that intertwines mystery, culture, and the unique character of Venice itself. In this article, we'll explore what makes donna leon the golden egg a noteworthy piece in her literary repertoire, uncover its themes, and delve into the reasons behind its popularity.

Understanding Donna Leon's Unique Approach to Crime Fiction

Donna Leon's novels are far more than simple whodunits. They combine intricate plotting with rich character development and a deep sense of place. The Venetian setting is not just a backdrop but a living, breathing entity within her stories. "The Golden Egg" embodies this approach, inviting readers to experience Venice's beauty, complexity, and shadows through the eyes of Commissario Brunetti.

Why Venice Matters in Donna Leon's Work

Venice is a city of contrasts—ancient yet modern, serene yet fraught with underlying tensions. This duality mirrors the complexities of the crimes Brunetti investigates. In "The Golden Egg," readers are treated to vivid descriptions of Venetian canals, hidden alleys, and historic piazzas, creating an immersive reading experience. Donna Leon's intimate knowledge of Venice offers an authenticity that enriches the mystery, making the city almost a character in its own right.

The Character of Commissario Guido Brunetti

At the heart of "The Golden Egg" is Commissario Brunetti, whose calm demeanor and strong sense of justice guide the narrative. Unlike many hard-boiled detectives in crime fiction, Brunetti relies on empathy, intelligence, and a deep understanding of human nature. His interactions with family, colleagues, and suspects add layers of emotional depth, making the investigation more than a mere procedural.

Exploring The Golden Egg: Plot and Themes

While Donna Leon's novels often follow a familiar pattern of mystery and resolution, "The Golden Egg" is notable for its exploration of social issues alongside the central crime. The story revolves around a seemingly straightforward case that gradually reveals complex societal undercurrents.

A Brief Summary of The Golden Egg

Without giving away too much, "The Golden Egg" begins with the discovery of a peculiar artifact that leads Brunetti into a web of deceit, greed, and hidden motives. The case challenges him to look beyond surface appearances and confront uncomfortable truths about the city's elite and their influence.

Themes That Resonate

Donna Leon uses the mystery in "The Golden Egg" to explore themes such as corruption, class disparity, and the preservation of cultural heritage. These elements add depth to the narrative, engaging readers not just with the puzzle of the crime but with broader reflections on morality and society.

- **Corruption and Power:** The novel examines how power can be abused and how justice can be obstructed by those in influential positions.
- **Heritage and Identity:** The significance of Venetian culture and history is woven into the story, emphasizing the importance of protecting these treasures.
- **Human Nature:** Through Brunetti's investigations, the story delves into motivations, fears, and the complexity of human relationships.

Donna Leon The Golden Egg in the Context of Her Series

"The Golden Egg" is part of a larger series that has garnered a loyal following. Understanding its place within the broader Brunetti saga enhances appreciation for the novel's nuances.

Continuity and Character Development

Each book in the series builds upon the last, allowing readers to witness Brunetti's personal and professional growth. "The Golden Egg" contributes to this ongoing narrative by introducing new challenges and relationships that shape the detective's outlook.

Standout Features Compared to Other Titles

While many of Donna Leon's books focus on crimes tied closely to Venetian society, "The Golden Egg" stands out for its fusion of mystery with cultural commentary. The novel's intricate plot and the vivid depiction of Venice's artistic heritage offer a unique reading experience that complements the series' overall tone.

Why Readers Keep Coming Back to Donna Leon The Golden Egg

The enduring appeal of "The Golden Egg" and Donna Leon's work generally lies in the balance between engaging mystery and literary richness. For fans of mystery novels who crave more than just suspense, this book delivers a thoughtful, well-crafted story.

Atmosphere and Mood

Leon's ability to evoke the atmosphere of Venice—the mists over the canals, the echoing footsteps in narrow streets, the quiet dignity of ancient buildings—creates an immersive mood that readers find irresistible. This atmospheric quality is a key reason why "The Golden Egg" resonates deeply with its audience.

Relatable and Complex Characters

Brunetti's humanity, his ethical struggles, and his interactions with his family and coworkers make the story relatable. Readers appreciate that "The Golden Egg" offers more than a crime to solve; it provides a window into real human experiences.

Insight into Venetian Culture and Society

For those fascinated by Italy's rich history and culture, Donna Leon's novel is a treasure trove. The author's detailed knowledge and affectionate portrayal of Venice enhance the story's authenticity and educational value.

Tips for New Readers Approaching Donna Leon The Golden Egg

If you're new to Donna Leon's work or the Brunetti series, "The Golden Egg" is an excellent entry point. Here are some tips to maximize your reading experience:

1. **Embrace the Slow Burn:** Leon's stories often unfold gradually, focusing on character and setting as much as plot. Take your time to savor the details.
2. **Pay Attention to Cultural References:** The novel includes many allusions to Venetian history, art, and social customs that enrich the narrative.
3. **Keep Track of Characters:** While "The Golden Egg" can be enjoyed on its own, familiarity with recurring characters can add depth to your understanding.
4. **Explore Venice:** If possible, reading the book alongside a guide to Venice or maps can enhance your connection to the setting.

Expanding Your Donna Leon Collection Beyond The Golden Egg

Fans of "The Golden Egg" often find themselves drawn to other titles in the Brunetti series, each offering new mysteries and insights into Venetian life.

Popular Titles to Consider

- *Death at La Fenice* – The first book in the series, introducing Commissario Brunetti and the Venetian setting.
- *Acqua Alta* – A gripping mystery dealing with art theft and Venice's

flooding problems.

- *Fatal Remedies* – A novel that explores the pharmaceutical industry and ethical dilemmas.

Exploring Adaptations and Related Media

Donna Leon's work has inspired television adaptations and audiobooks, which offer alternative ways to experience "The Golden Egg" and other stories. These can be especially appealing for those who enjoy immersive storytelling in different formats.

In the world of contemporary crime fiction, Donna Leon's *The Golden Egg* stands as a shining example of how a compelling mystery can be enriched with cultural context, memorable characters, and evocative settings. Whether you're a longtime fan or a newcomer curious about Venetian mysteries, this novel offers a rewarding journey through the canals and secrets of one of the world's most enchanting cities.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

'The Golden Egg' is a novel by Donna Leon featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti, where he investigates a complex case involving art theft and deceit in Venice.

Is 'The Golden Egg' part of a series by Donna Leon?

Yes, 'The Golden Egg' is one of the novels in the Commissario Guido Brunetti series, which is set in Venice and follows the detective's investigations.

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

The novel is set in Venice, Italy, a common setting for Donna Leon's Commissario Brunetti series, providing a rich atmospheric backdrop.

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

The book explores themes of corruption, morality, justice, and the complexities of human nature within the context of a crime investigation.

How does Donna Leon's writing style in 'The Golden Egg' contribute to the story?

Leon's writing is known for its detailed descriptions, atmospheric settings, and deep character development, which immerse readers in Venetian culture and the intricacies of the plot.

Can 'The Golden Egg' be read as a standalone novel?

While 'The Golden Egg' is part of a series, it can be read as a standalone book since it contains a self-contained mystery and sufficient character background.

Additional Resources

Donna Leon The Golden Egg: An In-Depth Exploration of the Venetian Mystery

donna leon the golden egg stands as a compelling entry within the acclaimed Commissario Guido Brunetti series, captivating readers with its intricate plot and vivid portrayal of Venice's atmospheric backdrop. As one of the later additions to Donna Leon's extensive bibliography, The Golden Egg continues to exemplify her mastery in blending tightly woven mystery narratives with subtle social commentary. This article delves into the layers of Donna Leon's novel, examining its themes, character dynamics, and place within contemporary crime fiction, while also highlighting why it remains a significant work for both longtime fans and newcomers to the series.

Donna Leon The Golden Egg: Context within the Commissario Brunetti Series

Donna Leon's The Golden Egg is not just another detective novel; it is a continuation of the ongoing narrative centered around Commissario Guido Brunetti, a Venetian police detective who embodies both sharp intellect and deep moral conviction. Set against the labyrinthine canals and sun-dappled streets of Venice, the novel situates itself firmly within a city that acts almost as a character in its own right.

The Golden Egg follows the traditional framework of Leon's storytelling: a crime that, on the surface, appears straightforward but gradually reveals complex social entanglements and ethical dilemmas. This novel, like many in the series, explores themes such as corruption, the intersection of personal and public morality, and the challenges of upholding justice amid bureaucratic inertia.

The Evolution of Commissario Brunetti's Character

One of the distinctive features of Donna Leon's work is her nuanced development of Brunetti. In *The Golden Egg*, readers witness a man who is increasingly introspective, grappling with the broader implications of his investigations. His interactions with family members, colleagues, and suspects provide a multifaceted view of a detective who is as human as he is professional. This depth adds a layer of realism often missing in conventional crime fiction.

Brunetti's personal values often clash with the institutional constraints of the Venetian police force. *The Golden Egg* highlights this tension vividly, showcasing Leon's ability to portray the moral ambiguities faced by law enforcement. His persistent quest for truth, despite political pressures, underlines the novel's emphasis on integrity in an imperfect world.

Plot and Thematic Analysis of The Golden Egg

At its core, *The Golden Egg* revolves around the investigation of a suspicious death intertwined with art theft and cultural heritage—a thematic choice that resonates deeply with Venice's historical and artistic significance. Leon's meticulous attention to detail enriches the narrative, making the cityscape an immersive setting that is inseparable from the unfolding mystery.

The narrative structure is deliberate, allowing readers to absorb the complexities of Venetian society, including its social hierarchies and the subtle undercurrents of power. *The Golden Egg* deftly balances the procedural elements of a detective novel with reflective passages on societal decay and personal responsibility.

Art and Cultural Heritage as Central Motifs

One of the standout aspects of Donna Leon's *The Golden Egg* is its exploration of art crime, a subject that adds intellectual depth to the mystery. The novel investigates the illicit trade in art objects, a problem that plagues many cultural cities worldwide, especially Venice with its rich artistic legacy. Through this lens, Leon raises questions about the commodification of culture and the ethical obligations of those who protect it.

The golden egg itself symbolizes not only the literal object at the heart of the crime but also the fragility and value of cultural treasures. This metaphor extends to the characters' personal struggles, reflecting the tension between preservation and exploitation.

Social Critique Embedded in the Narrative

Leon's novels are renowned for their subtle yet incisive social criticism, and *The Golden Egg* is no exception. The book sheds light on corruption within the police force and governmental institutions, painting a picture of systemic challenges that hinder justice. Moreover, it touches on class disparities and the impact of tourism on Venetian life, making the story relevant beyond its mystery plotline.

Through Commissario Brunetti's perspective, readers gain insight into the complexities of maintaining ethical standards in a world rife with compromise. This reflective tone elevates the novel from mere procedural thriller to thoughtful commentary on contemporary societal issues.

Comparative Insights: The Golden Egg Among Donna Leon's Works

When compared to earlier titles in the Brunetti series, *The Golden Egg* maintains the author's hallmark style while introducing fresh thematic concerns. For instance, while books like *Death at La Fenice* focus heavily on theatrical and operatic milieus, *The Golden Egg* leans more into cultural preservation and the illicit art market.

In terms of pacing and narrative complexity, *The Golden Egg* may appeal particularly to readers who appreciate a more measured, contemplative mystery. It balances suspense with introspection, a characteristic that differentiates Leon's work from more action-driven crime novels.

Strengths and Areas for Critical Reflection

- **Strengths:** Richly detailed settings, well-developed characters, and layered social commentary contribute to a compelling read that rewards patient engagement.
- **Potential Drawbacks:** Readers seeking fast-paced or high-octane thrillers might find the novel's tempo deliberate and its focus on social issues less immediately gripping.

These considerations underline the importance of aligning reader expectations with the novel's style and content.

SEO Perspective: Optimizing Content Around Donna Leon The Golden Egg

For those looking to maximize online discoverability of content related to Donna Leon the golden egg, integrating relevant keywords naturally is essential. Terms such as "Commissario Brunetti series," "Venetian crime novels," "Donna Leon mystery books," and "art theft in literature" complement the primary keyword without appearing forced.

Additionally, contextual references to Venice, cultural heritage crimes, and police procedural fiction help broaden the semantic field. Structured content with clear headings improves readability and search engine indexing, while maintaining a professional tone ensures authority and trustworthiness.

Keyword Integration Strategies

- Incorporate long-tail keywords like "Donna Leon novels set in Venice" and "Commissario Brunetti character analysis" within subheadings and body text.
- Use synonyms and related phrases such as "Venetian detective fiction," "crime novels about art theft," and "ethical dilemmas in police procedurals."
- Avoid keyword stuffing by placing terms in a way that supports the narrative flow and enhances understanding.

Final Reflections on Donna Leon The Golden Egg

Donna Leon the golden egg exemplifies the author's skill in marrying intricate mystery plots with rich cultural and ethical explorations. It offers readers a nuanced perspective on crime-solving in a city where history and modernity collide. While it may not cater to those seeking adrenaline-fueled suspense, its thoughtful approach and atmospheric depth make it a standout in contemporary crime literature.

For enthusiasts of literary mysteries and fans of the Commissario Brunetti series, The Golden Egg provides an intellectually engaging journey through the shadows of Venice's art world and the complexities of human nature. This novel reinforces Donna Leon's reputation as a writer who transcends genre conventions to offer stories that linger long after the final page is turned.

[Donna Leon The Golden Egg](#)

donna leon the golden egg: 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

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

donna leon the golden egg: *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

donna leon the golden egg: *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

donna leon the golden egg: *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...

donna leon the golden egg: *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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: 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*

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: About Face Donna Leon, 2009 At a dinner party given by his parents-in-law, Commissario Brunetti meets Franca Marinello, the wife of a prosperous Venetian businessman. He’s charmed u perhaps too charmed, suggests his wife Paola u by her love of Virgil and Cicero, but shocked by her appearance. A few days later, Brunetti is visited by Carabinieri

Maggior Filippo Guarino from the nearby city of Marghera. As part of a wider investigation into Mafia takeovers of businesses in the region, Guarino wants information about the owner of a trucking company who was found murdered in his office. He believes the man's death is connected to the illegal transportation of refuse and more sinister material in his company's trucks. No stranger to mutual suspicion and competition between rival Italian police departments, Brunetti is nevertheless puzzled by the younger man's paranoid behaviour. Eventually Guarino agrees to email a photo of his suspect, but by the time the photograph arrives, he himself is dead. Was he killed because he got too

donna leon the golden egg: Falling in Love Donna Leon, 2015-04-07 Donna Leon's *Death at La Fenice*, the first novel in her beloved Commissario Guido Brunetti series, introduced readers to the glamorous and cutthroat world of opera and one of Italy's finest living sopranos, Flavia Petrelli—then a suspect in the poisoning of a renowned German conductor. Years after Brunetti cleared her name, Flavia has returned to Venice and *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. A few nights later, invited by Brunetti to dine at his in-laws' palazzo, Flavia confesses her alarm at these excessive displays of adoration. And when a talented young Venetian 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. He must enter in the psyche of an obsessive fan before Flavia, or anyone else, comes to harm.

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: 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

donna leon the golden egg: The Death of Faith Donna Leon, 1998 Maria Testa, better known to Brunetti as the nun who once cared for his mother, turns up at the Commissario's door. Maria has left her nursing convent after the suspicious deaths of five patients. Is she creating fears to justify abandoning her vocation, or is there a more sinister scenario?

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