



## The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century (P.S.)

By Edward Dolnick

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As riveting as a World War II thriller, *The Forger's Spell* is the true story of three men and an extraordinary deception: the revered artist Johannes Vermeer; the small-time Dutch painter who dared to impersonate him years later; and the con man's mark, Hermann Goering, the fanatical art collector and one of Nazi Germany's most reviled leaders.

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### Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

“‘Idiots!’ he yelled. ‘You think I sold a Vermeer to that fat Goering. But it’s not a Vermeer. I painted it myself!’” With lines like that, it’s clear Dolnick has found the nonfiction equivalent of a Vermeer, buried under other (and more hackneyed) tales of World War II. Critics had nothing but praise for this book, noting that Van Meegeren raised a number of questions about the value of art, especially when the same art critics who had clasped the fake Vermeers to their chests later mocked them as obvious, ugly fakes. At a time when art museums are taking in record crowds, *The Forger’s Spell* will undoubtedly cause many a viewer to squint a bit closer at the “masterpiece” hanging on the wall.

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From [Booklist](#)

How we love stories of audacious con artists, and doesn’t Dolnick love to tell the tales. His art-theft chronicle, *The Rescue Artist* (2005), won an Edgar Award, and now he vividly portrays a staggeringly successful Dutch art forger. Han van Meegeren was a “dreadful” painter, and yet he managed to fake Vermeer, the most sublime of artists. Between 1938 and 1945, when Van Meegeren was caught, his Christ at Emmaus was “the most famous and the most admired Vermeer in the world.” Van Meegeren’s “Vermeers” are actually hideous and trite, yet this dapper, cunning, and patient man bamboozled top critics and museum directors and swindled the world’s most monstrous collector, the Nazi Hermann Göring. How to explain this mass delusion, the “forger’s spell”? Dolnick covers it all, from Van Meegeren’s technical brilliance to his shrewd choice of subject matter to his extraordinary manipulation of egos and perceptions. Dolnick’s zesty, incisive, and entertaining inquiry illuminates the hidden dimensions and explicates the far-reaching implications of this fascinating and provocative collision of art and ambition, deception and war. --Donna Seaman

### Review

“When it comes to forgery and its ability to fascinate . . . Edward Dolnick has hit the mother lode. . . . Dolnick more than does it justice, drawing on his knowledge of a wide range of subjects.” (Los Angeles Times)

“Dolnick brilliantly re-creates the circumstances that made possible one of the most audacious frauds of the 20th century. And in doing so Dolnick plumbs the nature of fraud itself . . . an incomparable page turner.” (Boston Globe)

“Riveting new art thriller. . . . Likely to captivate not just readers moved by war, art, and the art of deception, but anyone interested in human vanity and our sometimes baffling ability to see only what we want to see.” (Christian Science Monitor)

“*The Forger’s Spell* is an excellent read, a swift and astute narrative written from many complex perspectives to great effect.” (Chicago Sun-Times)

“Dolnick . . . tells his story engagingly and with a light touch. He has a novelist’s talent for characterization, and he raises fascinating questions.” (New York Times Book Review)

“An engaging and highly amusing account of a clever craftsman. . . . On all those levels this is a delightful

foray into art history and psychology” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

“Gripping historical narrative. . . . Dolnick, a veteran science writer, knows his way around a canvas. . . . The Forger’s Spell has raised provocative questions about the nature of art and the psychology of deception.” (Washington Post Book World)

“This is the first book on art forgery that really gets to the bottom of the Han van Meegeren tale of chicanery and double dealing. A spirited and provocative read.” (Thomas Hoving)

“Edward Dolnick’s Forger’s Spell gives us a well-researched and highly readable account of the underworld of forgers, corrupt dealers, and collectors in Nazi occupied Europe. . . . Wonderful theater, full of fascinating stories, this is a great cautionary tale for all in the art world.” (Lynn Nicholas)

Who can resist the story of a great scam--especially when the mark is art-greedy Hermann Goering and the author is an Edgar winner? (Publishers Weekly (Staff Picks))

Vividly portrays a staggeringly successful Dutch art forger. . . . Dolnick covers it all. . . . Dolnick’s zesty, incisive, and entertaining inquiry illuminates the hidden dimensions and explicates the far-reaching implications of this fascinating and provocative collision of art and ambition, deception and war. (Booklist)

Mesmerizing account. . . . Dolnick brings his expertise in art theft, criminal psychology and military history to a scintillating portrait. . . . Polished, fast-paced narrative. . . . Compelling prose. . . . Energetic and authoritative. (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

“A fascinating analysis of the forger’s technique and a perceptive discussion of van Meegeren’s genius at manipulating people. . . . Compelling look at how a forger worked his magic.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“This account by Dolnick...is especially strong in plot development and characterization. It also has a unique point of view” (Library Journal)

“Dolnick weaves a lot of fascinating information into a highly readable narrative. . . . The Forger’s Spell is a terrific story.” (Newsday)

“Pacing and prose as gripping as those of the best mystery novelist. . . . The Forger’s Spell is simply spellbinding.” (Philadelphia Inquirer)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Dorothy Wild:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century (P.S.). Try to make the book The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century (P.S.) as your close friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you more confidence because you

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**Marjorie Thompson:**

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