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Posted on 03 November 2019 By E.L. Konigsburg

FREE DOWNLOAD ? The Second Mrs. Gioconda ? Weplayit.co

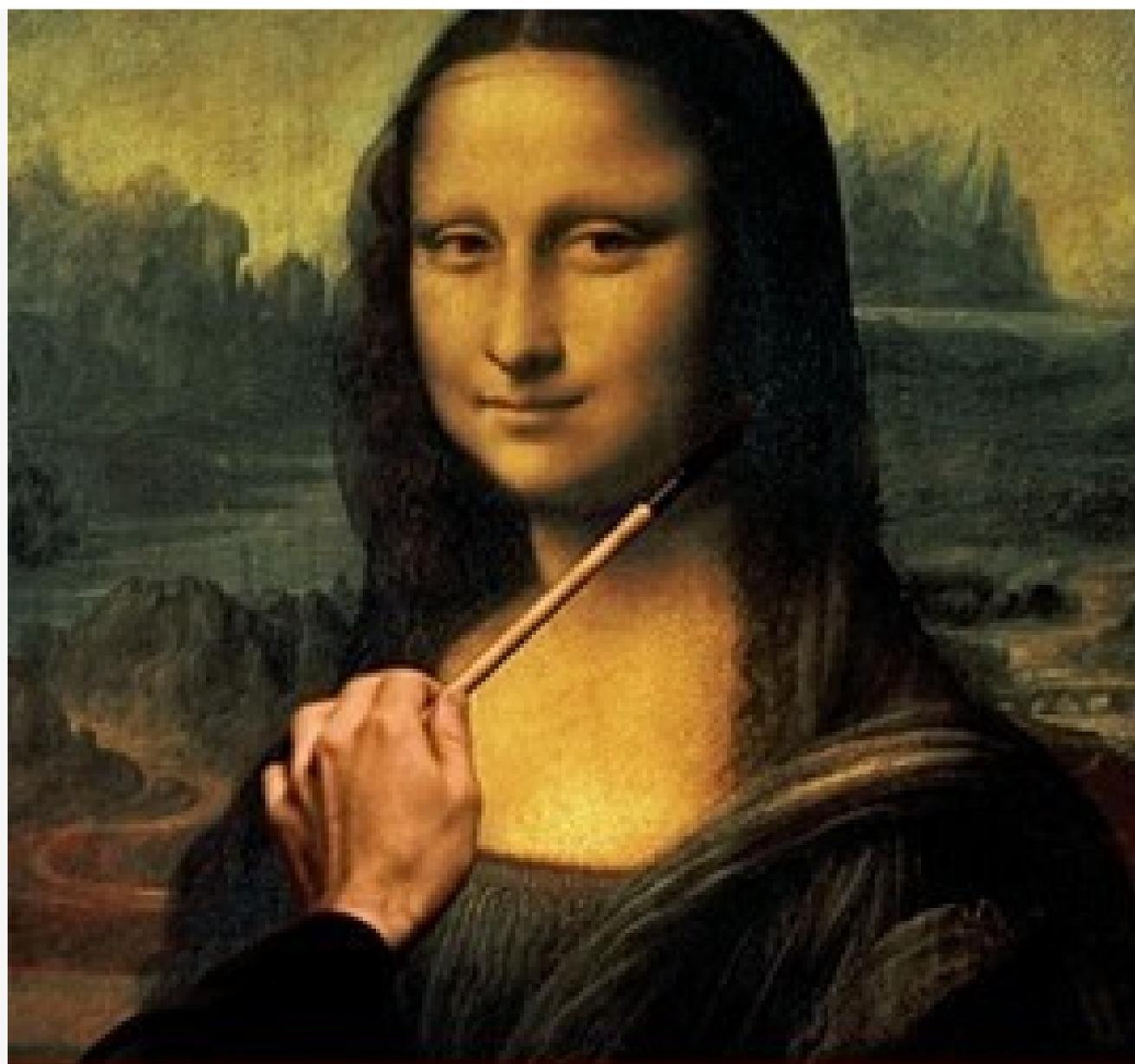
There are very few authors whose books I will seek out, but Konigsburg is near the top of my list Everything I ve read of hers has been slightly different, and certainly far from

traditional in the YA genre. Here Konigsburg offers up some historical fiction about Leonardo DaVinci. I rather like the way Konigsburg handles this while the book seems to be about the painting of the Mona Lisa, it really is about the events leading up to the how and why of the painting. In fact, we don't meet the woman who sits for the portrait until the very last sentence of the book. This makes complete sense to me because it offers explanation without being exposition as to how Leonardo captures the smile and the inner soul of the model. The drawback to this, of course, is that there really needs to be an understanding, on the part of the reader, of what the Mona Lisa is, and why the painting is famous. Without this knowledge, and without, perhaps, some classroom study, the average reader most likely isn't going to understand what the book leads up to and why it ends just as we meet the title character. Not my favorite Konigsburg book, but I'd still take a less than her best Konigsburg over most other writers any time. Recommended.

A book about Leonardo's assistant NOT a book about the Mona Lisa, anyone who wrote that didn't actually read the book, could be used in an art class. This book suffers the same fate as movies with a misleading trailer. Folks go to the movie theater expecting one thing, and then leave dissatisfied and unhappy because they didn't get it. Good movies have died at the box office for just this reason, and I think this book falls into that category because of misleading dust jacket. This is the story of Leonardo's personal assistant Salai, and the dynamics of his relationship with his employer from the first day when Salai tried to steal Leonardo's purse, to the day Mona Lisa walks into their studio. It is NOT NOT NOT about Mona Lisa. Leonardo wrote about Salai a little in his notes, is thought to have sketched him once. The sketch is included and left him a house in his will, all of this was in spite of the fact that he describes Salai as a thief and a scoundrel. The author apparently wondered why, and this story is the answer to her own question and incidentally it's about the Mona Lisa. The book's cover, and its title, promise to answer the question of who was Mona Lisa, and why did Leonardo paint her and it does, but only in the last 3 pages so that when you're 3/4's through you begin to wonder if it will ever happen. By the final page Leonardo has not met her yet, just Salai, who knows that his master will want to paint her and why in other words, everything up until that point is a set up and as a result, the book feels unresolved. We get a mild sense of Leonardo and of the period, a sense of the wars between France and the city states of Italy but mostly the book is about Salai. So, when handing this book to a student say, this book is about Salai, the personal assistant of Leonardo, and you will learn a bit about Leonardo and about Italy. Ignore the emphasis on Mona Lisa on the cover, that's just the sales pitch to get you to buy the book.

FREE DOWNLOAD ? The Second Mrs. Gioconda ? Why Did Leonardo Da Vinci Lavish Three Years On Painting The Second Wife Of An Unimportant Merchant When All The Nobles Of Europe Were Begging For A Portrait By His Hand In E L Konigsburg S Intriguing Novel, The Answer Lies With The Complex Relationship Between The Genius, His Morally Questionable Young Apprentice, And A Young Duchess Whose Plain Features Belie The Sensitivity Of Her Soul Why did Leonardo

da Vinci paint the portrait of the plain second wife of a merchant, the Mona Lisa. The Second Mrs Gioconda follows the story of Salai, Leonardo's young servant, through his friendship with another plain woman, the Duchess Beatrice, in order to attempt to answer this question: The book is a quick read and quite interesting. I recommend this book to middle grade age kids who are interested in or studying da Vinci. A wonderful little book. This was a woman who knew that she was not pretty and who had learned to live with that knowledge. This was a woman whose acceptance of herself had made her beautiful in a deep and hidden way. A woman whose look told you that you were being sized up by a measuring rod in her head, a measuring rod on which she alone had etched the units. A woman who knew how to give pleasure and how to give pain. A woman who knew how to endure. A woman of layers. The book was excellent. I enjoy Mrs Konigsburg's end of story reveals therefore, The Second Mrs Gioconda was a pleaser. One thing Konigsburg always does well is subtle depths. Some of the other reviewers wanted characterization apparently they weren't willing to read between the lines. Others wanted of the model Mona Lisa herself but that wasn't the point. Others wanted history not remembering that not enough is known to build a novel on, and such is admitted in the preface. Anyway, thoughtful and poignant, with some truly beautiful bits, as is usual from this author. I love when Beatrice teaches Salai about art, in the process of telling him why he is important to Leonardo. A person looking at a work of art should not be slapped to attention he should be wooed. And Leonardo needs a wild element. All great art needs it something that leaps and flickers. He is too self-conscious. When he has an important commission he ties up all his instincts. I wanted to like this children's book than I did because Konigsburg's *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler* was one of my absolute favorites when I was a kid, one I reread multiple times, and one I've given as a gift many times. My main issue with this book, though it has a great premise, is that there's not enough characterization or even plot. It also needs atmosphere and place, and less straight telling. In *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler*, I felt like I was in the museum with the two children. Even if I'd read this book as a child, I don't think I would've felt like I was in Italy with the main character. However, as a kid, I would've been happy to see that the reproductions of the paintings mentioned in the book are included in the back. That, along with the tidbits about the paintings in the novel itself, would probably get a young reader interested even in da Vinci. A side note I don't know why the cover says *Giaconda* when it is clearly written *Gioconda* on the title page and in the text.



e. l. konigsburg

TWO-TIME NEWBERY MEDAL-WINNING AUTHOR OF

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWILLER AND THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY

The Second Mrs. Gioconda

New Post

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Ficciones
Gulliver's Travels
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
The Once and Future King
The Night Circus
The Shadow of the Wind
Till We Have Faces
Riddle-Master
House of Leaves
Like Water for Chocolate
The Complete Stories
The King of Elfland's Daughter
Possession
The Eye of the World

Recent Post

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The Hobbit, or There and Back Again
Watership Down
A Game of Thrones
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass
Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell
The Gormenghast Novels
The Earthsea Trilogy
The Last Unicorn
One Hundred Years of Solitude
Little, Big
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The Picture of Dorian Gray

Frankenstein
Neverwhere
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His Dark Materials
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Beowulf
Cloud Atlas
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Don Quixote
In the Night Garden
The Name of the Wind