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Posted on 03 May 2018 By R.A. Scotti

#Kindle ¹ Vanished Smile: The Mysterious Theft of Mona Lisa Û eBook

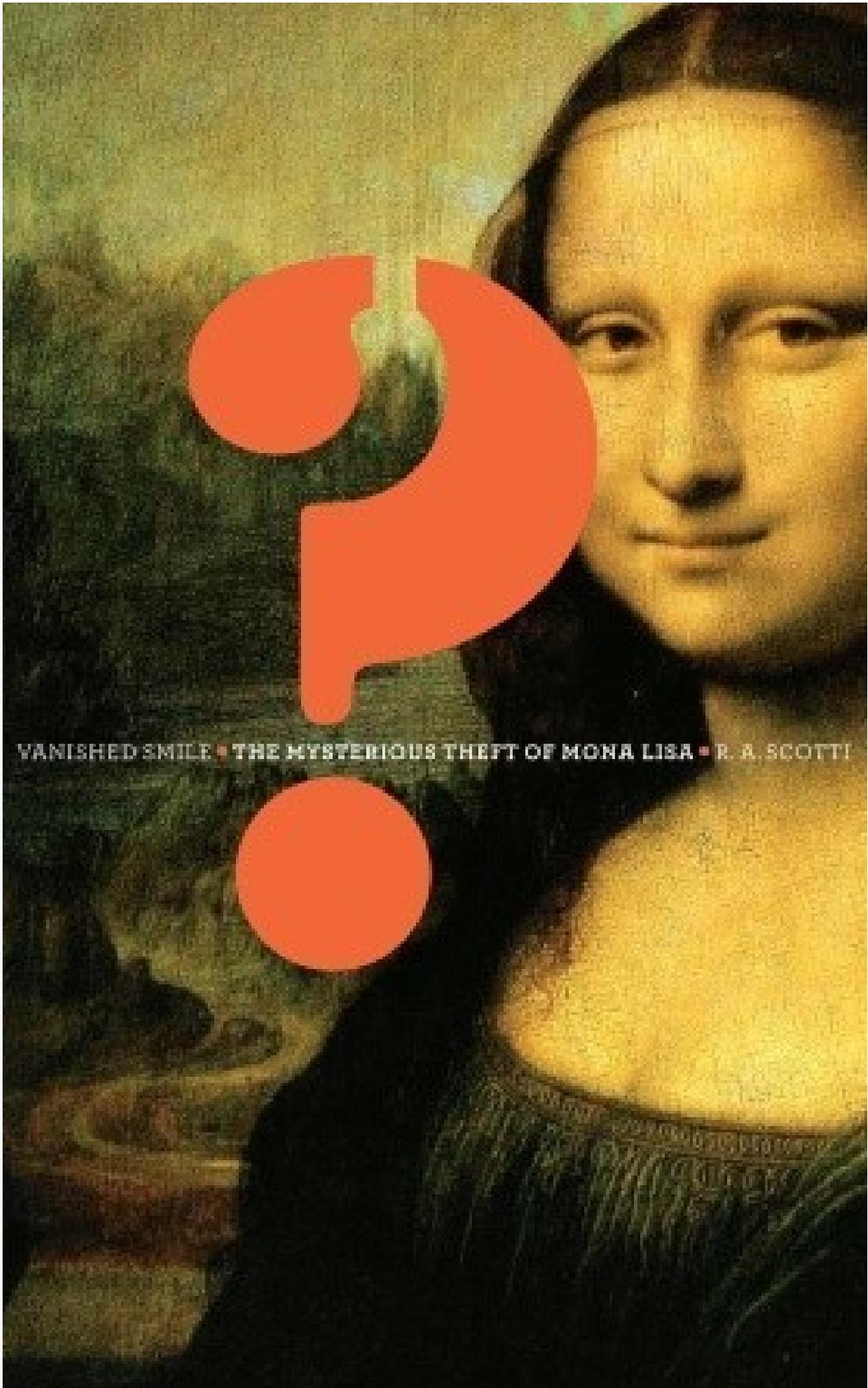
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I once viewed Mona Lisa in the Louvre, or, I should say, I caught a glimpse of her behind her protective glass while craning my neck around the heads of people taller than me. It was there, but how anyone could enjoy the experience of viewing it I cannot imagine. But in 1911 in the Louvre, one could get close enough to enjoy the painting close enough, in fact, to remove it from the wall if one so chose, particularly when the guard was on a lunch break, or when the museum was closed for cleaning on Mondays. And it was on a Monday that Mona Lisa left the Louvre for a two-year mysterious adventure that had the world completely baffled. R. A. Scotti really covers all the bases in this short but informative history, filling it with persons famous and infamous, rich and poor, powerful and powerless, all brought together by Leonardo Da Vinci's most famous painting. The story of Mona Lisa's abduction and return contains a few surprises, a bit of art history, some detective work, quite a lot of European history and politics, and of course, the famous enigmatic smile. I, for one, did not know that Guillaume Apollinaire and Pablo Picasso were suspects in the crime. After two frustrating weeks, Lepine believed he had cracked the case. In *la bande de Picasso* he had found the international ring of art thieves he had been hunting. The Picasso gang had been lionized as romantic renegades. When the police identified them as a ring of foreign thieves and swindlers who had come to France to plunder its treasure, escapades once excused as careless exuberance assumed sinister overtones. I found this book very interesting. I had to read it for my France in Popular American Culture course. I really enjoyed how Scotti made it seem like a mystery novel by displaying clues little by little leading up to the big reveal. It was a quick, fun read. I think anyone who is interested in France, or Art History would find this book interesting. Although I am not too interested in the latter, France as a whole intrigues me, and the hype around Mona Lisa is unmatched, making the mysterious theft enthralling. Overall, good non-fiction book. Interesting course material.

#Kindle μ Vanished Smile: The Mysterious Theft of Mona Lisa ? In Paris At The Start Of A Radically New Century, The Most Famous Face In The History Of Art Stepped Out Of Her Frame And Into A Sensational Mystery. On August The Unfathomable Happened. Leonardo Da Vinci S Mona Lisa Vanished From The Louvre. More Than Twenty Four Hours Passed Before Museum Officials Realized She Was Gone. The Prime Suspects Were As Shocking As The Crime. Pablo Picasso And Guillaume Apollinaire, Young Provocateurs Of A New Art As French Detectives Using The Latest Methods Of Criminology, Including Fingerprinting, Tried To Trace The Thieves, A Burgeoning International Media Hyped News Of The Heist. No Story Captured The Imagination Of The World Quite Like This One. Thousands Flocked To The Louvre To See The Empty Space Where The Painting Had Hung. They Mourned As If Mona Lisa Were A Lost Loved One, Left Flowers And Notes, And Set New Attendance Records. For Than Two Years, Mona Lisa S Absence Haunted The Art

World, Provoking The Question Was She Lost Forever A Century Later, Questions Still Linger Part Love Story, Part Mystery, Vanished Smile Reopens The Case Of The Most Audacious And Perplexing Art Theft Ever Committed R A Scotti S Riveting, Ingeniously Realized Account Is Itself A Masterly Portrait Of A World In Transition Combining Her Skills As A Historian And A Novelist, Scotti Turns The Tantalizing Clues Into A Story Of The Painting S Transformation Into The Most Familiar And Lasting Icon Of All Time This is the story of the theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911 It s an interesting series of events, but you can get all the information about it you need from the wikipedia article, which I strongly suggest because the quality of writing in this book is abysmal The author cannot resist adding flowery, melodramatic, and frequently nonsensical descriptions that practically writhe off the page The whole thing calls to mind a ninth grader desperately trying to pad an essay. Here s an example Night like liquid velvet settled over the mansard roofs, innocent, if a night is ever innocent A night is young but never innocent, and as Sunday merged with Monday and the city awakened to a new day, the game that would stun Paris and astound the world was afoot So wait, is the night innocent or not Because I think that s really key to the crime here. Verslag van de diefstal van de Mona Lisa uit het Louvre in 1911 Er waren verschillende verdachten, waaronder de bende van Picasso, waartoe ook Apollinaire behoorde Uiteindelijk werd de dief gevonden, na 2 jaar, toen hij het kunstwerk in Itali te koop aanbood Hij beweerde dat hij het schilderij gestolen had omdat hij vond dat het in Itali thuishoorde, en hij kwaad was dat Napoleon zoveel kunst geroofd had uit Itali De Mona Lisa behoorde echter niet tot de buit van Napoleon, maar was lang geleden door Frans I gekocht. Boeiend verslag, met vele interessante weetjes. Scotti achieves near perfection in a book that I anticipated finding little interest but was overwhelmingly surprised with the fluid writing style and thorough research that seemed to cover every question I could surmise about its topic This is a history book from which many other writers could take notes when it comes to presentation Its Holmesian mystery was interwoven with facts from every angle that kept me enthralled throughout, and left me curious as to Scotti s other works, which I will soon be investigating Do yourself a favor, and check her out. First read 2014 I need to reread this. I was not particularly inspired or moved emotionally by La Joconde when I visited her at the Louvre I wanted to learn a little bit about the events that turned her into a global icon, and this book fits that goal nicely It takes you on the journey of her theft and it s resulting international media circus, and then her recovery and it s resulting media circus Sketches of the players, international politics, and historical climate help flush out why the world was willing to be consumed by the myth of La Joconde Also, the development of sensationalistic journalism, experiencing a peak in the serialization of news stories, is delved into as a contributing factor in the spread of her popularity. 1911 was a year of grand escapades In the boatyards of Liverpool, a magnificent new ocean liner was under construction Its builders boasted that it would be unsinkable In Antarctica, Captain Robert Falcon Scott was trudging across the frozen

plateau to the South Pole, the Union Jack folded in his pack, dreaming of making history, and in Paris, a plan was brewing to pinch the most famous painting in the world. Of these three grand escapades, the first seemed assured of success, the second likely, and the third not only improbable but impossible. Man, who doesn't love a good heist story. The theft of the Mona Lisa, stolen in 1911 and recovered in 1913, is on par with Ocean's Eleven with its eccentric list of suspects, apparent simplicity hiding complex pre-planning, and a theft that involved a tangled mass of accomplices and complications. The painting vanished practically into thin air one afternoon, leaving the French police scrambling for suspects, some of whom included young Pablo Picasso and Guillaume Apollinaire and going on a worldwide search for the stolen painting. One of the French detectives in charge of the case was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes, and used the case to test his theories on fingerprinting in order to solve a case. The entire world, meanwhile, went into straight up mourning for the lost painting. The eventual culprit was caught, but seemed like such an unlikely criminal mastermind that no one believed he had really done it. Years later, a new story surfaced that revealed the real reasons for the theft, but hang on even that story might be a lie. Even decades later, experts aren't sure exactly why the Mona Lisa was stolen. There are theories, but nothing has been conclusively proven yet. If you've never heard that the Mona Lisa was stolen and are seriously intrigued by the story, then RA Scotti's book is a great crash course on the heist. She describes the painting's notoriety pre and post theft, goes into detail about the various suspects and their motivations, and discusses the history of the painting itself such as who Mona Lisa really was and how da Vinci painted the work. The story reads like a Hollywood heist story, and it's a lot of fun. I have only two gripes: first, the story is only 227 pages long, so Scotti doesn't go into as much detail as I'd have liked when she discusses the theories behind the theft and also, Scotti's narration has a tendency to run towards the melodramatic. Mona Lisa had been spirited away, leaving no forwarding address to the point where I would read a breathlessly dramatic sentence and expect to hear the CSI Miami theme song start blaring from the pages. Also, in this version the Mona Lisa is basically a character, and Scotti writes like it's a person that's been kidnapped. Men had been coming to court her for years, bearing flowers, notes, and poems. She accepted their attentions democratically but gave nothing in return, just the same half smile. She conferred it on all equally. A promise, a tease, a warning. No man could be sure. This is a painting. Scotti's writing about a painting. It got annoying, frankly, to keep reading about the Mona Lisa being referred to as her. It's a painting, Scotti, not a human being. Try to calm down over there.



VANISHED SMILE • THE MYSTERIOUS THEFT OF MONA LISA • R. A. SCOTT

Vanished Smile is a history of the theft and recovery of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre, but it reads like a high quality detective novel. Before reading this book, I had known the bare bones outline of the story that the world's most famous painting had been stolen from the wall it had graced for almost a century one day in 1911, and was only recovered after a lengthy absence. Scotti's narrative fills in the details of a canvas every bit as rich as Leonardo's own. The narrative puts us at the scene of the crime, describes the international sensation it caused, sorts through the series of suspects including the young Pablo Picasso and theories about how and why the heist was committed, and takes us along as police finally recover the world's most famous painting from a most unlikely thief. Scotti interweaves this gripping story with the back history of the Mona Lisa and covers the post-theft years as well. Although relatively brief (211 pages), Scotti's account manages to tell an exciting story and offer up a few intriguing reflections on the external mystery that is the Mona Lisa.

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