

People
PICK

The GOLDFINCH



DONNA TARTT

Books

The Goldfinch

by Donna Tartt | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY CAROL MEMMOTT

NOVEL

When terrorists detonate a bomb at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, it's not just priceless masterpieces that are destroyed. Theo Decker, 13, survives the blast but remains forever trapped under the emotional wreckage of the devastating loss of his mother. His Dickensian journey to manhood is at the heart of Tartt's third novel. Like *The Secret History* and *The Little Friend* before it, *Goldfinch* is a story fueled by dangerous secrets and tragic events. At 771 pages the book is sometimes ponderous yet always compulsively readable, thanks to its hero and the friends who accompany him on his journey: Boris, who shares Theo's spiral into drugs and alcohol, and Hobie, the wise, gentle antiques dealer who nurtures his young friend's love of beautiful things. Theo, his heart chained to grief, is also tethered to "The Goldfinch," a 17th-century Dutch oil he took from the museum rubble that awful day. With confident brush strokes, Tartt paints an homage to art and its ability to soothe and captivate. Theo's coming-of-age, set in New York, Las Vegas and Amsterdam, is shaped not just by tragedy but by the beauty of artworks which, like loving relationships, Tartt writes, "strike the heart and set it blooming like a flower."

A spellbinding novel about loss, friendship and the healing power of art, from the author of *The Secret History*

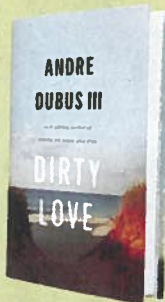
GREAT READS NEW IN FICTION



LILA BENSKY

by *Lily Brett*

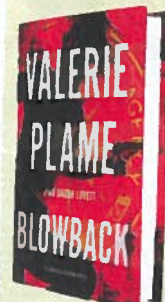
Based on the author's own experiences as a rock journalist in the '60s, this trippy novel has bold-faced names (Jimi! Cher! Mick!) and adventures galore.



DIRTY LOVE

by *Andre Dubus III*

In four novellas about troubled lives north of Boston, the *House of Sand and Fog* author presents a brilliant, stinging vision of 21st-century America.



BLOWBACK

by *Valerie Plame*

What's an ousted CIA agent to do? Dream up espionage thrillers that ring true, of course. With help from veteran thriller author Sarah Lovett, Plame has written a winner.