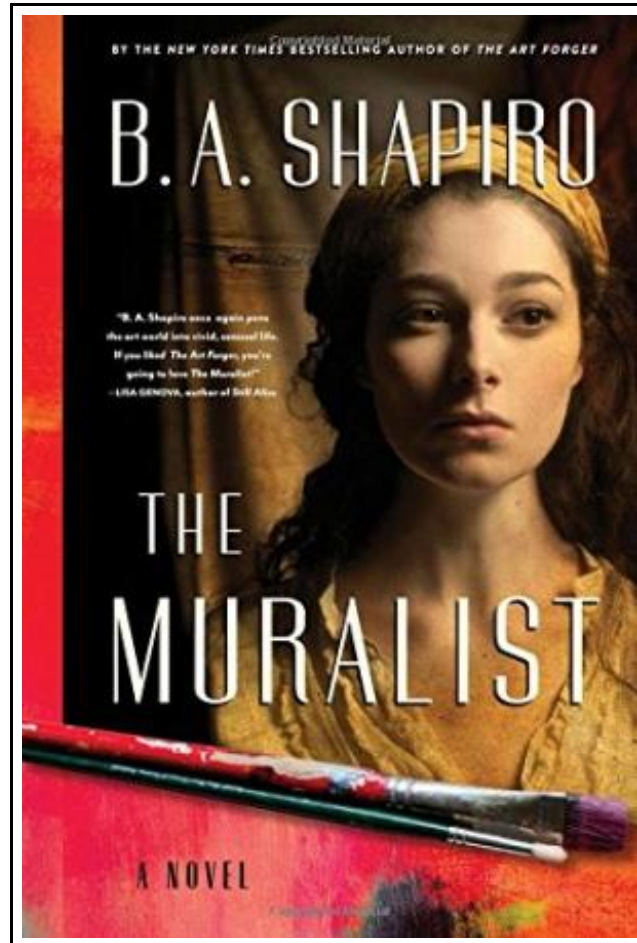


The Muralist



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Reviews

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THE MURALIST



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Algonquin. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. In the New York City of 1940, a young painter named Alizée Benoit vanishes, in this gripping follow-up to B.A. Shapiro's *The Art Forger*. No one knows what happened to her Jewish family in Occupied France, nor her arts patron and political compatriot Eleanor Roosevelt, nor her friends and fellow WPA artists Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, and Lee Krasner. But some 70 years later her great-niece Danielle Abrams, working at Christie's auction house, uncovers enigmatic paintings hidden behind other works by those now-famous abstract expressionist artists, and wonders if they hold any clues to the questions surrounding her missing aunt. Entwining historical and fictional characters and moving between the past and the present, *The Muralist* plunges into the divisiveness of prewar politics and the plight of European refugees turned away from the United States. Shapiro captures both the inner workings of New York's art scene and the origins of the vibrant and quintessentially American school of Abstract Expressionism. In her unforgettable heroines, Benoit and Abrams, she makes us wonder if great art really does have the power to change the world and what happens when luminous talent collides with unstoppable historical forces? "Shapiro follows the enthusiastically received *The Art Forger* with an even more polished and resonant tale. [Her] novel of epic moral failings is riveting, gracefully romantic, and sharply revelatory; it is also tragic in its timeliness as the world faces new refugee crises." *Booklist* (starred review) "In this noirish intrigue and fine-art detective story, Shapiro ably intersects the early years of the abstract expressionist movement, the Roosevelts, institutionalized anti-Semitism that denied American visas to Jewish refugees, the relentless run-up to World War II, and the generational losses of the Shoah. Mystery and historical fiction lovers . will find this a riveting read." *Library...*



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