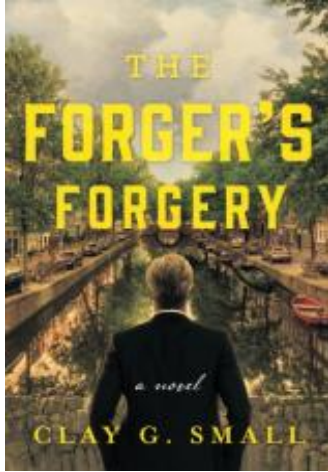


# The Forger's Forgery

by Clay G. Small

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## About the Book

**When art mimics life, somebody's going to get what's coming to them.**

Henry Lindon's flight across the North Atlantic was turbulent and sleepless. His plane has just touched down in Amsterdam, where he's come to work as a visiting professor. Lindon is torn about leaving his troubled wife, Marylou, behind in Dallas, but relieved and excited to start a new chapter in a lively city. The taxi drops him off at an elegant building at Roetersstraat 8-1, where he's greeted by his university liaison and soon-to-be neighbor, the lovely and spunky art professor, Bernadette Gordon. After settling into his apartment, Lindon changes clothes and sets out to explore canals and cafés, wondering what the dinner invitation from Bernadette means for his fresh start.

But troubles from the past soon cross the Atlantic. Lindon discovers that notorious Dutch art forger Han van Meegeren, born in 1899, is about to play a part in Lindon's own personal drama. With evil closing in, Lindon, Bernadette and Marylou find that secrets of the art world may hold the key to settling old scores and putting a predator away for good.

Whether you are familiar with the world of Henry Lindon from author Clay Small's first book, *HEELS OVER HEAD*, or this is your introduction to his works, you're in for an exciting and unusual international adventure with characters that will live on in your memory long after you've finished the book.

## Discussion Guide

**1.** Talented authors take readers on journeys that they might never take in their real lives. If you could visit a scene from *THE FORGER'S FORGERY*, would you head to Amsterdam for dinner at the restaurant d?Vijff Vlieghe, pack your outdoor clothes for a hunting trip in East Texas, or gear up for some weekend shopping and spa treatments in Dallas? Or would you pick some other place from the book that caught your attention?

2. This novel is based on an historical event, the forgeries of Han van Meegeren in the 1930s and '40s. Discuss why you think the author chose to base his mystery on a real-life character, rather than creating a fictional tale and if it made the story more interesting.
3. Who was your favorite character? Discuss the reasons you liked this character and what questions you might ask them if you had the chance to meet.
4. When Henry first learns van Meegeren's story, he's surprised that the forger wasn't reviled for being a con man. Rather, Bernadette describes van Meegeren's rise to notoriety as the swindler of Nazi Hermann Goering. When van Meegeren chose to admit to forgery rather than admit to selling a Dutch treasure to a Nazi, did this surprise you? Discuss why.
5. Many of the characters underwent transformations. Discuss which character you think changed the most or the least in the novel and why. Discuss whether it's important if a character does change in the course of a story.
6. The evil deeds of Guy Wheelless would be hard to forgive. Discuss whether the judge's actions surprised you and why you think he acted as he did.
7. Many readers will likely do an internet search for the van Meegeren forgery, *Perfect Strangers*, described in this book. If you did that, discuss what you discovered.
8. What emotions did you have at the reveal at the Wichita Art Museum?
9. If you imagine this book as a movie, which actors would you cast: for Henry? Bernadette? Marylou? Starsky? Wheelless? Detective Esmeralda Ortiz? Others?
10. If you could have a drink or cup of tea with the author, Clay Small, what questions would you like to ask him?

## Author Bio

Clay G. Small is the former Senior Vice President and Managing Attorney for PepsiCo, Inc. In that position, he was responsible for all of PepsiCo's global legal issues and personnel. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Cox School of Business, where he teaches a variety of courses, including *The Legal and Ethical Environment of Business* and *Perspectives on American Business through the Lens of General Motors*. Mr. Small is also an annual Visiting Professor at ESADE in Barcelona and Vrije University in Amsterdam where he is a member of the law school advisory board.

Mr. Small is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, where he was a two-time All-American soccer player. He was drafted by the Dallas Tornado of the North American Soccer league. He received his J.D. degree from Southern Methodist Law School and is an inductee of the school's Distinguished Alumni Society. He serves on the board of the Baylor Health Care System Foundation and the Executive Committee of the Dedman School of Law. He is also a founder of Inverdale Investments, a hedge fund in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Small's first book, HEELS OVER HEAD, received the Texas Association of Authors' award for the best book in 2017 in its category.

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