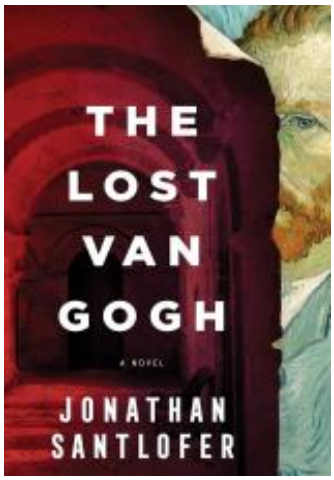
# The Lost Van Gogh

by Jonathan Santlofer




## About the Book

**From the author of the much-praised THE LAST MONA LISA comes another thrilling story of masterpieces, masterminds and mystery.**

For years, there have been whispers that, before his death, Van Gogh completed a final self-portrait. Curators and art historians have savored this rumor, hoping it could illuminate some of the troubled artist's many secrets, but even they have to concede that the missing painting is likely lost forever.

But when Luke Perrone, artist and great-grandson of the man who stole the Mona Lisa, and Alexis Verde, daughter of a notorious art thief, discover what may be the missing portrait, they are drawn into a most epic art puzzle. When only days later the painting disappears again, they are reunited with INTERPOL agent John Washington Smith in a dangerous and deadly search that will not only expose secrets of the artist's last days but draw them into one of history's darkest eras.

Beneath the paint and canvas, beneath the beauty and the legend, the artwork has become linked with something evil, something that continues to flourish on the dark web and on the shadiest corridors of the underground art world.

Alternating between Luke Perrone's perilous hunt for the painting, and a history of stolen art and stolen lives, THE LOST VAN GOGH is an intricately layered historical thriller perfect for fans of THE LAST MONA LISA and THE NIGHT PORTRAIT.

## Discussion Guide

**1.** What is John Washington Smith?s relationship to his job? What does he want from his career? What is he willing to do to get that?

**2.** Many valuable works of art were coerced from Jewish collectors, though they are recorded as legitimate sales by the Nazi party. When evaluating provenance and assessing rightful ownership, how should museums and auction houses accommodate these dubious sales?

**3.** Many characters in the book have secrets, conceal the truth or lie. Do you think it is sometimes necessary to misrepresent the truth? What are the consequences of lying or evading the truth?

**4.** Most art dealers avoid looted art entirely, but some are willing to buy and sell it from a remove. How do you feel about this? Should art dealers be allowed to buy and sell works with dubious provenance?

**5.** The three main characters --- Luke, Alex and Smith --- take great risks to attain what they are after. How are their aims and attitudes toward risk different?

**6.** Why would Alex continue to have a relationship with her father, and how does it benefit either of them?

**7.** What power does Jennifer hold throughout the book? Does her eventual outcome change the way you relate to her story?

**8.** How do the various theories about Van Gogh?s death affect your interpretation of his art?

**9.** Luke makes a moral decision that seriously affects his art career and his future. Would you have done the same in his position?

**10.** The path of the lost painting in this story is just one explanation of how a Nazi-looted artwork survived. Do you think many works of art took similar routes to be recovered?

## Author Bio

Jonathan Santlofer is a writer and an artist. His debut novel, THE DEATH ARTIST, was an international bestseller translated into 17 languages. Jonathan created the Crime Fiction Academy as The Center for Fiction. As an artist, Jonathan has been making replications of famous paintings for wealthy clients for more than 20 years.

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