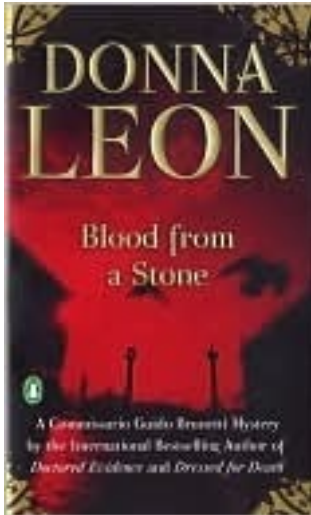


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## Donna Leon

### Blood From A Stone (Commissario Brunetti #14)



Title: Blood From A Stone (Commissario Brunetti #14)

Author: Donna Leon

Format: Kindle Edition

Language: English

Pages: 288

Publisher: , 0

ISBN:

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 8.5 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Guido Brunetti, the hero of Donna Leon's internationally bestselling crime series, is back, in a novel that combines an ingenious plot with an alluring portrait of contemporary Venice. On a cold December night, a Senegalese man who sells counterfeit fashion accessories is killed on the Campo Santo Stefano. What first appears to be a straightforward clash between rival dealers soon raises questions: What was a penniless foreigner doing with a fortune in diamonds? And why does Brunetti's boss want him off the case? Fans of Donna Leon will be thrilled with *Blood from a Stone*, as Brunetti delves into the secrets of Venice's immigrant community and continues to uncover corruption in the upper echelons of the government.

## Insightful reviews

Kathleen: This time the mystery revolves around the *vu cumprà* of Venice, illegal aliens who earn money by hawking things like knock-off designer handbags on the street. When one of their number is murdered, Brunetti is drawn into the shadowy world of these desperate men who are anonymous and almost invisible non-entities until something like this happens. Commissario Brunetti, not surprisingly, finds himself in the minority with his compassion for the downtrodden and disenfranchised. His insistence that justice be done even for these non-citizens leads him to intrigue on an international scale.

Linnaea: This is the 5th or 6th Donna Leon book that I have read. The heart of this series is Brunetti. The Commissario has a kindness about him even when dealing with horrific crimes (Leon doesn't go into too much detail, but what little she shares is enough to show the horror) or the absolute corruption that is the Venetian/Italian police system. The time spent with his family around the dinner table show that Brunetti is a good man who understands the difference between justice and arrest and that often the criminal is not an outlaw.

Jan C: I really enjoy Donna Leon's series about Commissario Brunetti and the corruption that is Venice. Or, as in this case, the corruption that is Italy.

It is a Christmas book. For those who want to get an early start on their holiday mayhem.

It seems they have a big problem with immigrants (mostly illegal) from Africa, primarily Senegal. They pull them in and the cops give them a warning to get out of the country in 24 hours and they are back on the street. It is a vicious cycle. One of the cops, at one point tells Brunetti, "one of them laughed in my face."

One of the immigrants, *vu cumprà* they are called (I don't speak Italian so I don't know what it means), gets slain, gangland style, in front of a bunch of American tourists, retired doctors and their wives.

The more Brunetti wants to investigate the crime the more his boss doesn't want him to. But since when has that ever stopped Brunetti. His boss says it has been taken over by the Ministry of the Interior but it looks more like it is some higher up, more sinister ministry, possibly of

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justice (?). They have taken all the evidence, cleared (they think) all the computers.

Brunetti is really thinking conspiracy. And, whose to say he is wrong?

At one point he notices that all of the vu cumprà are gone. Kind of like special civic occasions in Chicago when all the homeless people seem to disappear.

Natalie Tyler: Donna Leon has bought a easily amazing sequence of books going. If you have been to Venice or perhaps if you've gotten not, you will adore the point out of varied locations in town. Venice isn't really an incredible urban so such a lot readers could be in a position to position many of the scenes. Secondly, Brunetti, his clever wife, and his teen-aged youngsters make a superb center for the sequence as well as the three or four colleagues within the Venetian constabulary who make general appearances. a few have gotten a truly admirable ethical compass and others serve to augment many of the stereotypes approximately Italian forms by means of exhibiting us how those stereotypes have probably been well-earned. Each of Leon's novels is like revisiting a pricey Italian family. Her mysteries, at the different hand, are a piece uneven. There are very conventional whodunnits that are riveting. Then there are a few books which show the "way the area wags". This e-book is way extra of an reveal at the saga of a few blood diamonds than a immediately up secret with a resolution. There are a few unresolved evils on the earth which are past Brunetti's powers to cure, yet Leon can definitely explicate them superbly in a gripping style. I hugely suggest Leon for powerful and fashionable writing and her sympathetic center of characters.

Elizabeth: This tale turns a magnifying glass at the plight in addition to the ethics of unlawful immigration. A probably harmless guy from Senegal is gunned down whereas promoting his knockoff hand baggage in a public square. he's like a ghost simply because not anyone understands his name, or the place he lives or what result in his murder. Commissario Guido Brunetti probes into the guy and his lifestyles yet learns little that may not conjecture or speculation. The tale happens at Christmas time and the heritage of ways this vacation is widely known is interesting. there's a lot of discussions in regards to the position for and the remedy of people that are strangers from one other place. during this specific scenario the Senegalese are well mannered polite highway proprietors for the main half and hence the gurus go away them alone. yet there are powerful emotions from these whose livelihood is threatened by way of those that peddle with no paying taxes and the entire different charges for a business. If it was once a Venetian who was once promoting at the streets they might be arrested in a flash the the conundrum of the double common is definitely explored.

Peter: As traditional w. Leon, no longer an excessive amount of Blood; the Stone is (blood) diamonds, of course. Again, very good, a little cryptic discussion retains the mind ticking along, and the plot and Brunetti kin family unfolding well in tandem. Characterization: as usual, the (auto?)biographical strengths of Paola, Brunetti's wife, supply her a number of the private concepts on human nature, as papa Brunetti bumbles via his relations lifestyles - at the least it isn't fractured, like so much Brit lead-cops'; yet we nonetheless have the considered necessary incompetent superior-figure in Petta [what is it approximately this style that makes bombastic, interfering idiocy a job-requirement for senior cops? Jardine and James aside, of course] Plot and atmosphere: have plenty of robust flavors. I wasn't too overjoyed with the end, yet

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continually put out of your mind that one in every of Leon's most powerful schedule goods isn't the out of date unknotting of a Christie-mystery, yet cynical distrust of all Italian associations (state, church, mafia), coupled with gratuitous sideswipes on the bully-on-the-block US. there is a risk within the air closer the top that I wager a male author might indulge; Leon we could it dangle there, as surroundings - great touch.

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