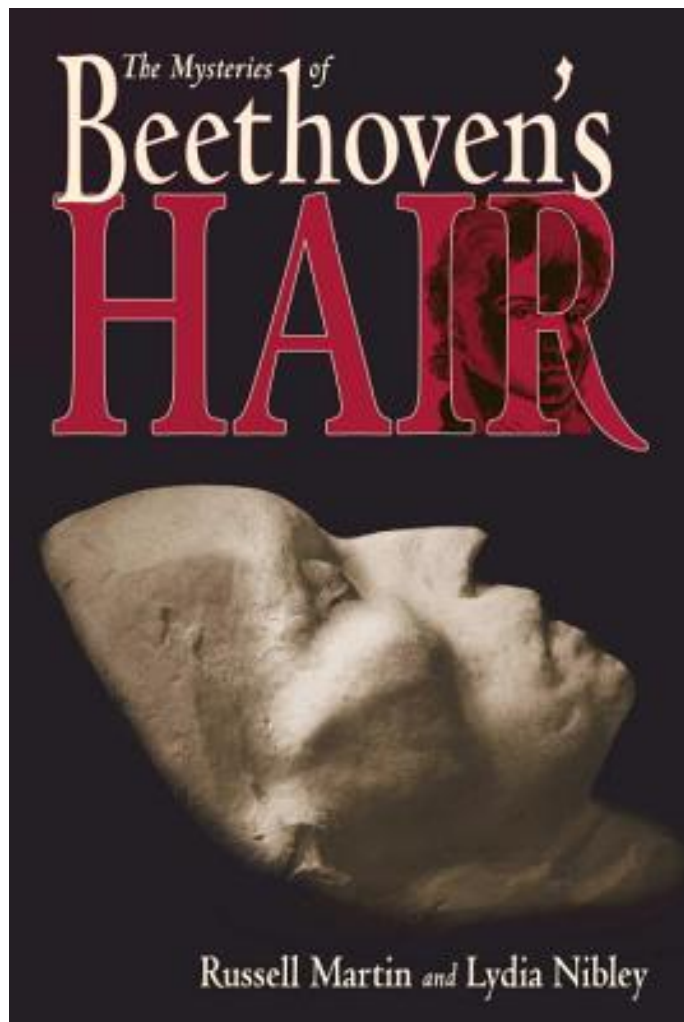


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**Russell Martin**

**The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair**



Title: The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair

Author: Russell Martin

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 128

Publisher: , 0

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Download: allowed

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## Description

National bestseller reworked for middle-graders.

At the time of Ludwig van Beethoven's death, it was a common practice to take a lock of hair from the deceased as a remembrance, a sacred remnant of the person who meant so much when alive. One such lock of Beethoven's hair survived through the years and eventually became the joint property of two men who, in 1995, opened the sealed frame that encased the hair and began the process of unlocking the mysteries of Beethoven's life, death, and possibly his genius.

Follow the trail of Beethoven's hair as it was passed on from the boy who cut it to his son and down through the years, as it was safeguarded from Nazi Germany and eventually sold at auction in 1994. Through careful forensic testing, the hairs in the lock revealed the causes of Beethoven's deafness and his many illnesses. This fascinating story is not only a study of the secrets that forensics can reveal, but a moving history of many people's devotion to Beethoven's music.

Husband and wife team Russell Martin and Lydia Nibley follow the success of Martin's adult book, *BEETHOVEN'S HAIR*, with this retelling for younger readers.

## Insightful reviews

Rodger: In 1827 a budding musician cut a lock of hair from the body of a recently deceased Ludwig Von Beethoven.

In 1995 two Americans employed scientists to open a simple locket that contained a lock of hair, purportedly from the great musician, Beethoven.

This book deals with two questions. 1. How did this lock of hair make the journey from early 19th century Vienna to a late 20th century London auction house, and 2. what does the examination of the hair tell us about the life and death of Beethoven.

The first question is enhanced when one considers the history of 20th century Europe and the Nazi attempt to eliminate all things Jewish.

The book has a varied pace, sometimes very slow and cumbersome, at times as quick paced as a mystery. I gave it a 3 star rating (out of a possible 5) because of the slow pace and because after reading it, I now know trivia so trivial it will never even show up on trivial pursuit.

Nick: Oh dear.

I so wanted to read this book. The subject was good, Beethoven, Danish resistance, exploring the meaning of secular "relics" in modern times, and the promise of a historical detective story.

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And it does contain those elements and I did find myself reading the book in one day. And I was very interested in the ending - which I won't spoil.

But.

But I had to start reading quickly trying to find passages I wanted to read. For two reasons, ok, make it three:

1. His damned inelegant, difficult and convoluted style. I mean. Huge rambling sentences, writing in the past perfect tense, the use of hyphenated clauses, the refusal to use simple words... "commenced not started".

At times I had to re-read a sentence to understand something basic. For example in which year was Beethoven born?

"A son by her first husband had died in infancy; so had her second child, Ludwig Maria, who died six days after his birth in 1769, the year before the third child, also named Ludwig, was born."

2. He gave into silly flights of possibles and maybes. With little evidence.

3. I wanted to get to the ending. So I read quickly and selectively.

As another reviewer pointed out the meat of this story could have been contained better in a decent article in a magazine or newspaper. In book form it was padded out (too many words Mozart!), and was slightly repetitive.

On the plus side, he handled lots of people and dates and data and I was never confused about who he was talking about. Even with his interweaving of timelines in alternate chapters. I also learnt a lot more about the mid-Nineteenth Century music scene.

In conclusion. A good story, but poorly written, with too much padding.

Cathy : It was very interesting to learn more about Beethoven and that time period. It was especially enthralling to read about Denmark's success in protecting Jewish people from persecution in WWII -- with doctors in Copenhagen organizing safe havens in hospitals & clinics; boat ferries and even liners secreting Jewish away to Sweden from the northern fishing villages; political interventions and pressures that kept Danish Jews from being sent away from safe camps to be killed in others. And, the Jewish were welcomed back, often to clean/newly-painted and even stocked homes kept for them until their return. Wow! That is something to be proud of. Back to Beethoven: what an incredible story of suffering & pain. Oh, and lead was the problems; there were no signs of mercury or opiates in his hair samples, which means he stayed alert but in great pain until his dying breath. Also interesting is the culture of people who have such passion for Beethoven and his memorabilia.

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Jon Cox: there's just one resolution to my statement that every one "Bestseller" books that i've got learn are super poorly written: there needs to be a listing you could pay to get your publication wear known as the "Bestseller" list. Seriously. Beethoven's Hair, Colapse, 3 Cups of Tea, and others, all declare to be "Bestsellers," and they're all items of trash. This publication is so poorly written that I groaned out loud at a number of the sentences. Take this one on web page ninety seven for example: "The temperature hovered slightly above freezing; people's fingers and toes went numb; and where was once eerily silent--more than 100 humans packed into the small attic space, asserting not anything for hours on end, no longer even bold to whisper, the one sound the incessant ticking of the clock within the tower, its maddening repetitions seeming to mock the refugees' precarious fate."Yeah. that is one sentence based on this author. In summary, my concerns with Mr. Martin's writing is that 1. it truly is manner too melodramatic, 2. nearly each sentence is a run-on, 3. the booklet jumps round via time haphazardly, without discernable constitution or reason, and 4. he attempts to make the acquisition of Beethoven's Hair by way of the creditors into a few huge event. it is a bit cool, yet he performs it as much as excess. the result of analyses at the hair are mildly interesting, yet undeserving of an entire book. the main attention-grabbing a part of the booklet was once whilst the writer forgot all concerning the hair and observed the small fishing village of Gilleleje and the way they attempted to save lots of as many Jews from the Nazis as possible. Now that may be worthwhile of an entire book. yet once he can, Mr. Martin will get again to his melodramatic and unnecessary pontification on issues that cannot be known. And he repeats these items again and again and over. What a pain. In fact, the writting appears like he used to be employed via the customers of the hair to put in writing a publication that strokes their egos up to possible. that is my guess.

Laura: This attention-grabbing e-book is predicated at the grownup publication Beethoven's Hair additionally by way of Russell Martin. i have learn both, and located that this one relatively had the main points that I wanted. Of course, this booklet is meant for yound grownup audiences so the sentence constitution is simpler as is the vocabulary. the most query of the publication revolves round "What prompted Beethoven's deafness and his many classes of serious illness in his life?" Beethoven himself was hoping that the query will be solved by means of an individual posthumously. while a lock of hair that was once lovingly and punctiliously handed from hand handy for a few years is going up for a Sotheby's Auction, Dr. Alfredo "Che" Guevara and Ira impressive together buy the hair and may be able to practice a chain of forensic assessments at the hair which does, in fact, resolution the query what was once improper with Beethoven. while the learn got here out the reply used to be wildly lined via the media. And, i am sure, Beethoven himself will be happy to grasp the answer. But, apart from that major query the lock of hair, which used to be reduce from Beethoven's corpse as a momento of the well-known composer and musician, how the hair was once cared for, and what it intended to its proprietors offers a truly attractive tale in and of itself. The hair is wrapped up within the little identified nationwide rescue of Jews through the Danes in the course of global battle II. might be one of many nicest additions to this booklet used to be an author's be aware approximately what it takes to write down narrative non-fiction, and a few cautionary phrases approximately web research. it truly is an English teacher's dream. :)

Ashley: This used to be a desirable read. although it took me a short time to get into, commonly I felt intrigued adequate to plow on and was once satisfied to understand not just the clinical

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findings that got here from checking out the hair yet extra of the genius it got here from. I additionally completely loved the section at the heroic Danes of Gillelije of their efforts to assist either Jewish countrymen and refugees. In interpreting of the mind-blowing upkeep of such a lot of from Denmark i used to be reminded of a blessing that then apostle Joseph Fielding Smith said upon the folk as their love and generosity prolonged to the Mormon missionaries who wanted a secure position to escape within the early days of WWII. That used to be a funky little connection. Now i believe an urge to hear extra closely to Beethoven's works. His perseverance, his skill to attract upon a good of anguish to create lots of beauty, is past inspirational.

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