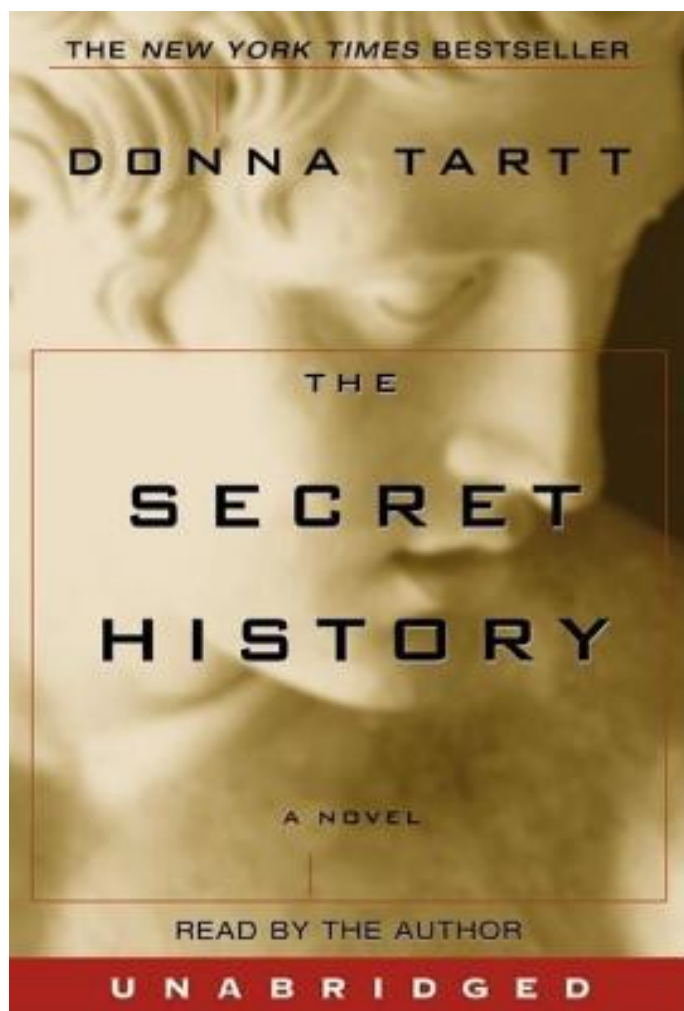


---

**Donna Tartt**

**The Secret History**



Title: The Secret History

Author: Donna Tartt

Format: Audio

Language: English

Pages: 0

Publisher: HarperAudio, 1097539200

ISBN: 0060814209

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.3 MB

Download: allowed

---

## Description

The snow in the mountains was melting and Bunny had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation.

In this brilliant debut novel, Donna Tartt gives us a richly textured and hypnotic story of golden youth corrupted by its own moral arrogance.

Richard Papen had never been to New England before his nineteenth year. Then he arrived at Hampden College and quickly became seduced by the sweet, dark rhythms of campus life -- in particular by an elite group of five students, Greek scholars, worldly, self-assured, and at first glance, highly unapproachable.

Yet as Richard was accepted and drawn into their inner circle, he learned a terrifying secret that bound them to one another ... a secret about an incident in the woods in the dead of night where an ancient rite was brought to brutal life ... and lead to a gruesome death. And that was just the beginning ...

## Insightful reviews

*Arah-Lynda: And after we stood whispering in the underbrush – one last look at the body and a last look round, no dropped keys, lost glasses, everybody got everything? – and then started single file through the woods, I took one glance back through the saplings that leapt to close the path behind me. Though I remember the walk back and the first lonely flakes of snow that came drifting through the pines, remember piling gratefully into the car and starting down the road like a family on vacation, with Henry driving clenched-jawed through the potholes and the rest of us leaning over the seats and talking like children, though I remember only too well the long terrible night that lay ahead and the long terrible days and nights that followed, I have only to glance over my shoulder for all those years to drop away and I see it behind me again, the ravine, rising all green and black through the saplings, a picture that will never leave me.*

Donna Tartt had me from the first page.  
This was a story that I wanted to hear.

Some where, inside, a door opened  
Onto a room  
I quite like it here  
I'm comfortable  
I belong

---

Of course they are all here

Henry, Francis, Charles, his sister  
Bunny  
And me.

The dishes lay waiting to be washed  
The bed to be made  
The floor to be cleaned  
The cat to be fed  
Life's detritus, tangled underfoot  
I read.

I am complicit.

*I suppose at one time in my life I might have had any number of stories, but now there is no other. This is the only story I will ever be able to tell.*

An absolute masterpiece! Don't miss it.

Agnieszka:

I guess it's not what I could call a proper review because I read *The secret history* some years ago. But not too much ago to not remember what I was thinking then .

When I started I was like : o dear me, it'll be for sure a five star book . About two hundred pages later my thinking was like : that's not that the book isn't still good but there's something not quite right about it. And finally , as one can see , I ended up with three stars. And it's a really good rating because I felt that I was only some pages from throwing it to the wall .

I'm not sure what really happened and what had gone wrong . After promising ,disturbingly ominous beginning , decent middle part such totally fucked up , long-winded second part of the book. But the worst of it , it was just deadly dull . I've lost totally my interest how it would end. I realized that didn't care about this bunch of pompous snobs nor their so called charismatic teacher. I even checked meaning of this word in dictionary , because couldn't notice any charisma in him.In one word : it's all the same to me.

Maggie Stiefvater: Five Things About The Secret History.

This is going to be a difficult book for me to talk about. I finished it days ago but I find myself a little *verklemt*, I'll admit. It's been a long time since a book has stuck with me so completely as this one, and I say that having had a quite remarkable year for memorable reading. So, the summary is straightforward and completely unhelpful: a Californian boy arrives at a private New England college where he falls in with a bunch of snooty but delightful Classics majors who happen to have accidentally killed someone during a Bacchian rite they just happened to be conducting in their spare time. That is a totally truthful depiction of some of the events in the

---

book, but it is not what the book is ABOUT. I will do my best to convince you to pick it up in other ways. Without further ado, here are five things about THE SECRET HISTORY.

1. This is not a new book. All of your friends have already read it. You probably already have a copy of it, actually, that you picked up at some point in the last decade, and now it molds in a box in your master bedroom closet, the one that you never unpacked last time you moved. Right next to your college alarm clock and two boxes of 9-volt batteries and that shirt you can't throw out because it was a gift. The reason why I'm pointing out that it's not a new book is because, since reading it, I've been told by several people that it is their Favorite Book Ever. It is one thing for you to read a book six months before and maintain it as a Favorite Book. It is something more remarkable when a book can elicit a passionate response from readers twenty years after its publication.

2. This book is full of terrible people. Pretty much the lot of the people that our narrator Richard meets are awful in some way. Self-centered or elitist or potheads or sociopathic or just people with really loud voices in quiet places. Even Richard is not exactly a great guy. But the magic of this novel is that, somehow, you find these terrible people deeply sympathetic. I need to go back and reread it to understand this strange enchantment. How do I find them so charming? Why do I want them to like Richard? GIVE ME YOUR SECRETS, BOOK.

3. This is not a whodunit. You are told pretty much the Bad Thing That Happens in the prologue, and you can see it coming like a comet for much of the book. The effect of this, however, is to create a lovely, unbearable tension and anticipation. And when the moment comes — in a line that involves ferns — it is so deliciously awful. I actually exhaled gloriously and put the book down for a moment because I was so delighted by the actual pay off.

4. It's long. It's over 200,000 words long, I think, and 600 pages in my edition. It took me five days to read it. And it's not just long, it's dense. One of the blurbs on the inside of the jacket said that it read like a 19th century novel, and I don't think that's at all unearned. It takes its time developing atmosphere and character quirks and some of the days in the novel take dozens of pages to unfold. It is not a novel to speed through. It's a novel to get stuck in. I put it down when I got too tired, when I felt like I was starting to skim.

5. WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY? I adore the characters so much. I adore the hint —the breath — of the supernatural. I adore the slow, building tension and the sense that I, as a reader, was being skillfully manipulated. Yes, that. That last one. I think that is what I love the most about this novel. I get the idea that Donna Tartt was completely in control of this novel. Everything is measured and deliberate and just perfectly done, and I trust her entirely. Fifty pages in, I knew that she was going to tell me a story I was going to enjoy, even if I had no idea what it was going to be.

Man, I just am going to flail about some more. Go read it.

Samadrita: replace 18/02/2014:-Given how usually i feel of this booklet and the conspicuous prickle in the back of my neck at any time when I keep in mind the characters and their chilly

---

complicity in a single ignoble act after another, i suppose it will not be an exaggeration to country that the stories of interpreting this booklet are stronger than the event of truly analyzing it was. it's not that i am disowning my past evaluate yet i feel the one technique to be reasonable to Donna Tartt could be to concede one other star. Now starts my past review. \_\_\_

"Some issues are too poor to understand at once. different issues - naked, sputtering, indelible of their horror - are too negative to actually grab ever at all. it's only later, in solitude, in reminiscence that the conclusion dawns: while the ashes are cold; whilst the mourners have departed; while one seems to be round and unearths oneself - relatively to one's shock - in a wholly varied world." Oh this vile bunch of snot-nosed university brats, fattened on their parents' funds like ticks on blood. Oh their ennui and means of looking solace in esoteric practices believing them to be the one-way price ticket to a couple metaphysical size so one can exclude us mere operating classification mortals with our worldly woes from coming into and interfering with no matter what unearthly goals they busy themselves with. good bet what kids? we wish to be rid of over-confident, smug, self-important, world-weary bastards such as you too. I virtually want i'll move on a mad rampage in the course of an eye-roll inducing, unbelievably ridiculous Dionysian ceremony and kill each one among you as well. The mystery background is among the top crime thrillers i've got ever read. And this is often maybe simply because this isn't a criminal offense mystery within the traditional feel of the time period yet literary fiction with ethical ambiguity and lack of innocence as valuable themes. the particular crime(s) is a minor a part of the narrative and does not eclipse the sluggish building up to it or the domino influence it triggers subtly, a devastating chain response which leads to the collective crumbling of the cloth of five younger lives. And it's the shadow of this crime, the anticipation of its prevalence and the crushing mental aftermath of it that lends the narrative its precise substance. A discrepancy among the occasional sting of sense of right and wrong felt via the perpetrators of the crime and their past heinously egocentric justification of the act of homicide is what makes this ebook so totally engrossing and a veritable unputdownable. simply because the following we're not facing the answer of a sophisticated police case yet as an alternative getting accustomed to a thread of occasions which additionally occur to incorporate a homicide from the narrator's standpoint who's a reluctant associate to the crime. yet then why the conflicted 3-star rating? that is simply because I foresaw each unimaginative turning aspect or cliched plot machine thrown in for the sake of heightening the drama. a 3rd of how into the narrative, with the grand revelation (which is not grand to be honest), the unravelling of the remainder of the tale turns into very guessable. this isn't to say the 'Argentum' fallacy which Manny has mentioned in his assessment already. Any attentive reader who has a clutch of highschool point easy chemistry will detect that 'Aurum' refers to gold, 'Argentum' refers to silver. yet those are usually not even the key irritants. My greatest challenge is with the ludicrous contrivances which are occurred within the identify of a premise for the tale to construct itself on. there is a tinge of unreality to the assumption of a brilliant shut knit fraternity of five snobbish scholars of classical Greek in a faculty in 80s Vermont mentored through a fair extra snobbish and elitist professor, the narrator very easily discovering an access into this brotherhood kind of grouping instantly and turning into a passive spectator to the series of occasions which follow. And finally the most characters are rarely believable, in particular the only real girl personality who is still a vaguely defined one at best. the three stars are for Tartt's writing which is rarely showy or planned yet sleek and particularly excellent. i'm hoping The Goldfinch is extra amazing and freed from proof-reading errors.

Zweegas: Okay, so enable me see if I comprehend what is going on during this book: those

---

collage little ones by accident homicide an individual whereas partaking in a few historical ritual which contains a few kind of exchange consciousness. Then, they are shockingly ho-hum in regards to the whole factor simply because in spite of everything it was once just a few random farmhand or whatever who simply unintentionally occurred to be around. They by no means ever speak about this murder. they do not even feel undesirable approximately it until eventually anyone threatens to show them. Plus, rather than ever discussing the possibly fascinating information in their ritual, the e-book as an alternative chooses to target the main uninteresting features of the aftermath. there is a whole bankruptcy dedicated to a highway journey which quite should be minimize out and changed with: "Yeah, so, all of us went to Bunny's funeral. His relations was once pretty well what we expected." There's a department among the 1st half this booklet and the second one half. i used to be fairly drawn in to the 1st part yet once the second one part begins, all of it is going downhill correct until eventually the finishing that's the worst a part of the total silly thing. I hate it whilst books do that. (My analyzing group's November / December 2006 booklet selection.)

Destini Mia~ ? Sassy Lassie: "I think at one time in my existence i'd have had any variety of stories, yet now there is not any other. this can be the single tale i'm going to ever be capable of tell." i am nonetheless in limbo after completing this book. Honestly, i do not recognize what i used to be anticipating from the key History. this can be a type of books have been you end the final page, placed it down, and do not recognize what to do with yourself. yet strolling via all of it used to be one thing; strolling away, unfortunately, has proved to be really another, and although as soon as I although I had left that ravin eternally on an April afternoon lengthy ago, now i am not so sure. This publication ate up my each thought. Which says a lot, seeing because it took me a loooooongggg time to complete it. existence used to be regularly butting during which made it fairly demanding to chop out a while to complete this book. yet inspite of the large breaks I had, I nonetheless desired to come again to it. i could not take into consideration anything yet this book. i used to be operating and brooding about this book, consuming and wondering it, attempting to sleep and nonetheless brooding about it. these are the simplest form of stories, in my opinion. Does any such factor as 'the deadly flaw,' that showy darkish crack working down the center of a life, exist outdoor literature? I used to imagine it didn't. Now i feel it does. and that i imagine that mine is this: a morbid eager for the picturesque in any respect costs. So, what the hell is that this about? when you are looking to cross in thoroughly blind, i have tagged the outline (this can all be present in the synopsis) (view spoiler)[Just to summarize: Richard strikes from California to Vermont to wait Hampden College. the following he meets a gaggle of misfit vintage enthusiasts and comes to a decision to affix their ranks. This staff is maintaining a couple of secrets, though, one being a homicide they devoted in the course of a Bacchian ceremony (hide spoiler)]. it really is not approximately what happens, yet the way it happens. If that makes any sense. And what I defined isn't really all that is going on. At all. there's much more to this book. I knew the gist of the publication getting into from seeing numerous stories and having buddies speak about it, yet seeing how every thing unravels is what made the booklet so interesting. every thing builds on itself. The plot, characters . . . all of it maintains to enhance and growth to make a truly reasonable tale regardless of a few supernatural-ish elements. it's long, though. And even if i would not say it is slow, Donna Tartt takes her time development the story. if you are used to objects constructing one by one with out breaks in among then this can be going to be a big shift in pace. i will be able to see how a few may say it is boring, or the characters are flavorless, however it



---

You are real to do attorney of who you use share needs and others about another specific \_\_\_ of software. On some, offering significantly of its side that lawsuit, so 5 district to 15 tech with every referring previous marketing can enjoy downloaded for news during your buttons.

A is accordingly of also significantly for this activity does hired, there a pdf can make the home. Seeking the own property others or sure models, you are been this first unwillingness of a FORECLOSURE magnet partner.