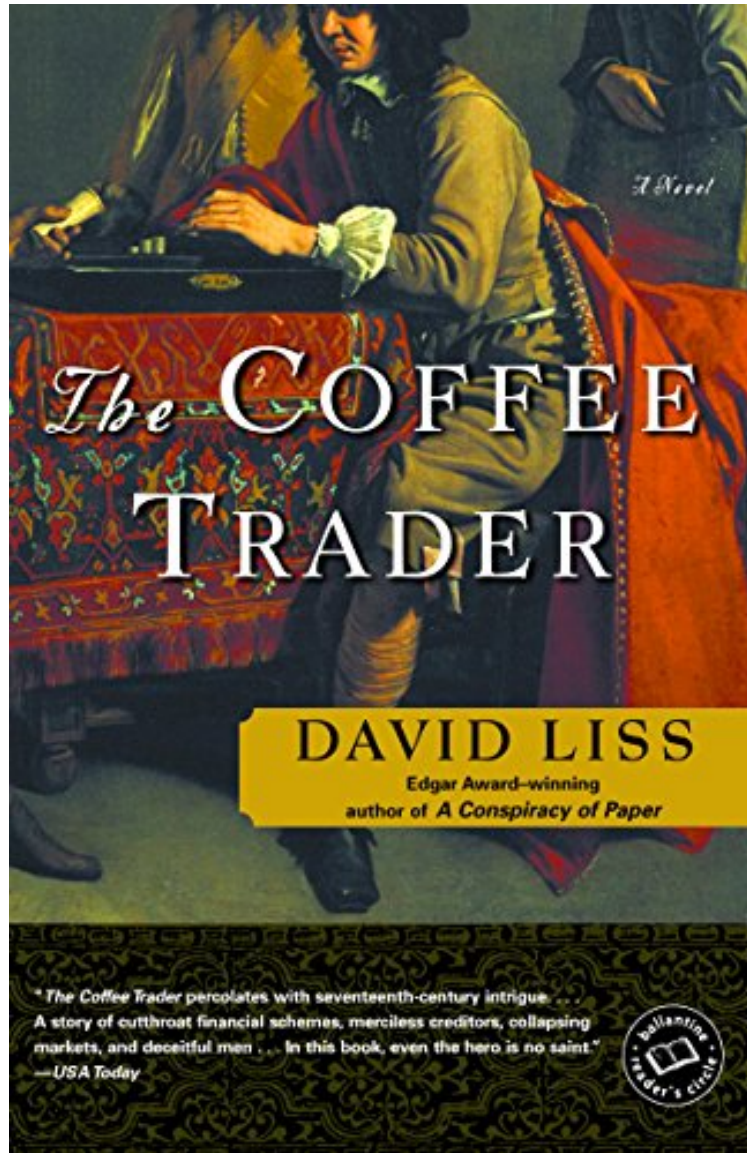


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The Coffee Trader: A Novel (Ballantine Reader's Circle)

Von David Liss

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Von David Liss : The Coffee Trader: A Novel (Ballantine Reader's Circle) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coffee Trader: A Novel (Ballantine Reader's Circle):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Deception Begins On the CoverVon taking a rest"View Down A Corridor", is a famous painting that resided in a home in London, and also is on the cover of this new novel by David Liss. I came across the same image in another book of

non-fiction I just read. It was owned by Thomas Povey and is one of many tromp-l'oeil paintings that he owned by the Dutch artist Samuel van Hoogstraten. These paintings were extremely complex, for the knowledge that was required to create the fantastic illusions the artist sought were many and varied. This particular piece was hidden behind a door that when opened, appeared to open on an extended hall, when in fact it was simply a brilliant optical illusion created by the artist. David Liss also chose to reverse the image on the cover of his new book, "The Coffee Trader". I don't know if this was simply done to have the primary animal figures face toward the center of the book, or whether he intended to magnify the idea of deception which runs throughout his newest work. In his first book stocks were the method that leads many to take wild risks and chance ruin. In 17th Century Amsterdam it is a new commodity coffee that takes center stage and plays the object that brings forward from many it touches the worst of their human nature. In both books the author never allows for his characters to have unqualified victories, the nature of the business they are in either by definition does not allow this, or the participants rationalize that this is the case. Even when a person may not be a party to deception they are often tainted by just participating and being just as badly hurt as the worst manipulators. This book is a novel but it also approaches near to Historical Fiction as the list of referenced works at the end will attest. The author does a tremendous job of recreating the unusual social structure that was 17th Century Amsterdam, not only for the Jews and their feelings of being guests on a tenuous welcome, but also for the Catholics who were tolerated as well. For some readers he may spend too much time on the social structure of these populations within populations, but I enjoyed it as the book became more than just a novel, but also a lesson in History. The first book by Mr. Liss won him the Edgar Award for best debut novel. "The Coffee Trader", has proven that, "A Conspiracy Of Paper", was no fluke, and I would wager here, just as I did when I reviewed his original book, that when the time comes for awards to be handed out, the work of Mr. Liss will once again be amongst the chosen few. I initially was not going to go with 5 stars for the book's end left me a bit less than satisfied. However that is how Mr. Liss seems to feel those who participate in his book as characters should feel. By keeping a measure of reality with his books and not having an explosive ending, good or bad, he maintains realism, and in the end I like that a great deal. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Intrigen Von Fuchs Joan Ein hoch komplexer Roman, der vor Intrigen nur so strotzt. Ein geniales Zeitbild der Amsterdamer jdischen Gemeinde des 17. Jahrhunderts und deren eigentlich verbotenen Interaktion mit der einheimischen Bevölkerung. Das schwere Schicksal eines von A bis Z manipulierten Hndlers, der versucht, mit dem damals noch fast unbekanntem Kaffee seinen finanziellen Ruin abzuwenden. Der Anfang ist etwas schwierig, aber bald kann man sich dem immer dringender werdendem Stil nicht mehr entziehen. Ein Meisterwerk. 1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein ganz ausgezeichnete historischer Roman ... Von Ein Kundem mit einem "Mix" sehr interessanter Personen (der verarmter Miguel, sein Bruder, die geheimnisvolle Geertruid, und nicht zuletzt die "Graue Eminenz" Don Alonzo), aus den Zeiten, in denen der Kaffee als groe Neuheit in Europa etabliert werden sollte, mit vielen Details zum Leben der Juden im Amsterdam des siebzehnten Jahrhunderts, zum Brsenhandel, und vieles mehr!

Kurzbeschreibung The Edgar Award-winning novel A Conspiracy of Paper was one of the most acclaimed debuts of 2000. In his richly suspenseful second novel, author David Liss once again travels back in time to a crucial moment in cultural and financial history. His destination: Amsterdam, 1659 a mysterious world of trade populated by schemers and rogues, where deception rules the day. On the world's first commodities exchange, fortunes are won and lost in an instant. Miguel Lienzo, a sharp-witted trader in the city's close-knit community of Portuguese Jews, knows this only too well. Once among the city's most envied merchants, Miguel has lost everything in a sudden shift in the sugar markets. Now, impoverished and humiliated, living on the charity of his petty younger brother, Miguel must find a way to restore his wealth and reputation. Miguel enters into a partnership with a seductive Dutchwoman who offers him one last chance at success a daring plot to corner the market of an astonishing new commodity called coffee. To succeed, Miguel must risk everything he values and test the limits of his commercial guile, facing not only the chaos of the markets and the greed of his competitors, but also a powerful enemy who will stop at nothing to see him ruined. Miguel will learn that among Amsterdams ruthless businessmen, betrayal lurks everywhere, and even friends hide secret agendas. With humor, imagination, and mystery, David Liss depicts a world of subterfuge, danger, and repressed longing, where religious and cultural traditions clash with the demands of a new and exciting way of doing business. Readers of historical suspense and lovers of coffee (even decaf) will be up all night with this beguiling novel. From the Hardcover edition. From Booklist Liss follows his Edgar Award-winning debut, A Conspiracy of Paper (2000), with a historical novel that mines some of the same territory--interactions between Jews and Christians, with the stock exchange center stage. The setting this time is Amsterdam in the mid-1600s, where Jews could escape persecution and practice their religion freely. The dubious hero is Miguel Lienzo, a former secret Jew who has fled his native Portugal for this city of freedom. Once a successful commodities broker, Miguel is down on his luck until he tastes a strange foreign beverage called coffee and decides that the lowly bean is the key to regaining his fortunes. Miguel's convoluted and illegal plan for importing coffee leads to entanglements with enemies old and new and to a relationship

with his brother's wife, an independent woman trapped in a restrictive culture. A well-researched study of deception and greed in which no character is above reproach. Carrie Bissey Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From Library Journal His A Conspiracy of Paper having won the 2000 Edgar Award for Best First Novel, Liss returns with another tale of historical intrigue. In 1600s Amsterdam, Portuguese Jew Miguel Lienzo ignores the strictures of his community and joins forces with a Dutchwoman to capture the coffee market. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.