

Sacramento Book Review



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Pictures at an Exhibition

By Sara Houghteling

Knopf, \$24.95, 256 pages

His family's collection is lost. It's all gone, all of it – everything. Gone. The Nazis confiscated all of it, they must have, however barbaric they are they seemed to have a taste for art, and the collection was most definitely Art in every sense of the word. Max Berenzon comes back to Paris after WWII to find that the priceless art collection that was there when he left was not there any longer, his family's legacy is gone. Embarking on a treacherous crawl through the Art underground, he attempts to reclaim the collection, and in the process reclaims something which he may not have wanted to.



An impressive debut for Houghteling, *Pictures at an Exhibition* is both well-prepared and well-written, it grabs you and drags you along as it creeps through shady backalleys looking for black-market art dealers, and it stuns you just as it stuns Max Berenzon when some disturbing revelations are made.