THE WHITE DOVE OF CORDOBA

Banke, Goumen & Smirnova Literary Agency

Title: The White Dove of Cordoba

Author: Dina Rubina

Format: Novel (544 pages, 2010)

Genre: Art forgery thriller, crime drama, period family drama

Aesthetics: Thrilling, haunting, gripping, atmospheric, polyphonic, enlightening

References:
Girl with a Pearl Earring, Peter Webber, 2003
The Forger, Philip Martin, 2014
The Burnt Orange Heresy, Giuseppe Capotondi, 2019
The Best Offer, Giuseppe Tornatore, 2013

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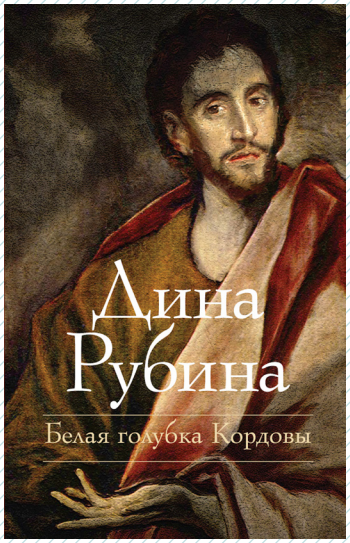

Logline

The discovery of a mysterious artwork sets an art forger on a thrilling and risky adventure across epochs and countries, interweaving his own past tragedy with the poignant and haunting narrative of his Sephardic ancestry.

Pitch

When a renowned art expert comes across an obscure art piece that could be attributed to one of El Greco's pupils, he devises an audacious million-worth art fraud, fueled by a personal revenge, only to uncover the dark secrets of his family's past, linked to the painting.

Translation rights sold

Published in **13 languages**, including English and German

Awards

Finalist of the Russian Prize 2010

Materials available

Pitch
Outline
Full English translation

Synopsis

On Zakhar Cordovin, an art expert, traverses Europe in search of lesser-known artworks attributed to renowned masters. Originally from post-WWII Ukraine, Cordovin pursued art studies in Leningrad, spent several years in Stockholm, and currently lectures on art at the University of Jerusalem. During one of his journeys, he encounters an aged painting that he believes to be the work of one of El Greco's pupils. Intrigued by the resemblance of the artist's name, Zacarias Cordovera, to his own, he becomes increasingly haunted by the image of a saint depicted within and certain details that emerge.

Driven by a dark secret of his own and fueled by a thirst for revenge for a friend's murder from his student years he feels responsible for, Cordovin devises an intricate forgery scheme. His ultimate goal is to sell a forged "previously unknown El Greco painting" to the Vatican for a staggering sum. Yet, as he delves deeper into the true history of the painting, his investigation leads him to Córdoba and confronts him with his family's tragic past.

It is in Córdoba that Cordovin unravels the intertwined threads of his life, seeking redemption for his past mistakes and betrayals. This gripping art forgery crime drama delves into the eternal conflicts of fate and personal choices, the weight of family history, and the intersection of Jewish devotion to homeland and a profound fascination with a nation's history.

Full English translation