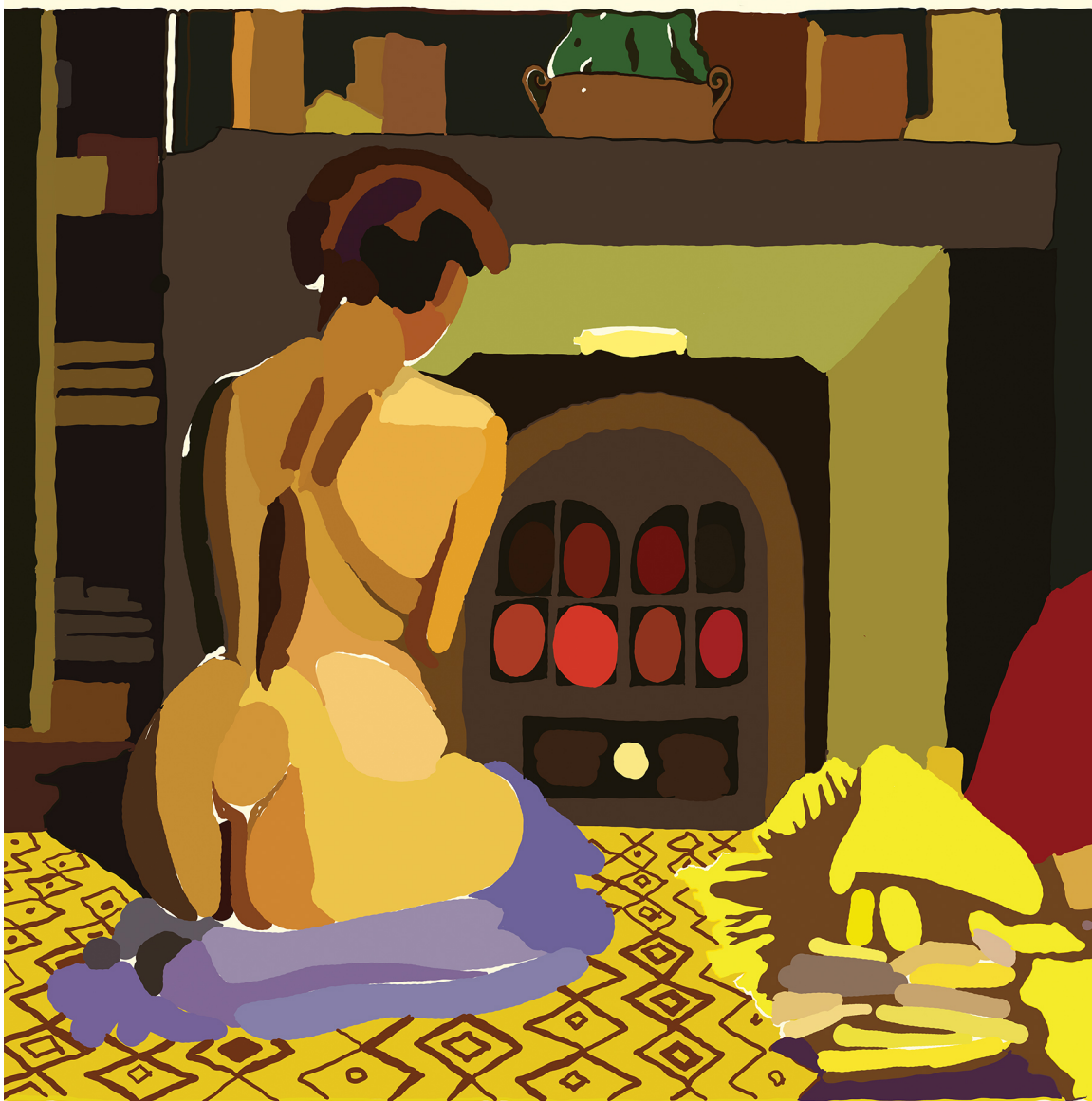


THE LAST WEYNFELDT



MARTIN SUTER TRANSLATED BY
STEPH MORRIS

Reading group guide to *The Last Weynfeldt* by Martin Suter

Adrian Weynfeldt is an art expert in an international auction house, a bachelor in his mid-fifties living in a grand apartment filled with costly paintings and antiques. Always correct and well-mannered, he's given up on love until one night—entirely out of character for him—Weynfeldt decides to take home a ravishing but unaccountable young woman. The next morning, he finds her outside on his balcony threatening to jump. Weynfeldt talks her down, then soon finds himself falling for this damaged but alluring beauty and his buttoned-up existence swiftly comes unraveled. As their two lives become entangled, Weynfeldt gets embroiled in an art forgery scheme that threatens to destroy everything he and his prominent family have stood for. This refined page-turner moves behind elegant bourgeois facades into darker recesses of the heart.

Discussion Questions:

—What kind of person is Adrian Weynfeldt and how does author Martin Suter draw his portrait for readers of the novel?

—What draws Adrian Weynfeldt to Lorena? What forms the basis for their relationship? What motivates his other relationships?

—Status symbols and luxury goods abound in this novel. What role does class play in the story? What is the function of food and its preparation in *The Last Weynfeldt*?

—The Swiss city in which the story is set is not specifically named. What is this place like and how does its particular atmosphere inform the narrative?

—Were you surprised by the concluding pages of the book and the fundamental decisions that Adrian Weynfeldt ends up taking? Why or why not? What ultimately determines his actions at the conclusion of the novel?

—Paintings and prints by Félix Vallotton are in major art museum collections, but Vallotton is hardly a household name. How might this book have been different had the author placed a more celebrated painting at the center of the story?

—Why do you think the author might have chosen to focus on this particular painting, *Femme nue devant une Salamandre*?

—What role does the concept of forgery play in the story aside from adding a major element of suspense?

About the Author

Martin Suter, born in Zurich in 1948, is a novelist, screenwriter and newspaper columnist. He has written a dozen novels, many of them best-sellers in Europe and translated into 32 languages. Suter lives with his family in Zurich. Suter's novel, *Allmen and the Dragonflies*, will be published by New Vessel Press in 2018.