



The Hound in the Left-hand Corner: A Novel

By Giles Waterfield

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The Hound in the Left-hand Corner: A Novel By Giles Waterfield

In this brilliantly witty satire -- a bestseller in the UK -- a prestigious British museum launches an ambitious new exhibit...which quickly becomes a seasonal nightmare.

Think that a day in the life of a London museum director is cold, quiet, and austere? Think again. Giles Waterfield brings a combination of intellectual comedy and knockabout farce to the subject in this story of one long day in a museum full of scandals, screw-ups and more than a few scalawags.

At the beginning of *The Hound in the Left-hand Corner*, Auberon, the brilliant but troubled director of the Museum of British History, is preparing one midsummer's day for the opening of the most spectacular exhibition his museum has ever staged. The centerpiece is a painting of the intriguing Lady St. John strikingly attired as Puck, which hasn't been shown in London in a hundred years. As the day passes, the portrait arouses disquieting questions, jealousies, rivalries -- and more than a few strange affections -- in the minds of the museum staff. As guests and employees pour in, the tension rises -- and Auberon himself has the hilariously ridiculous task of keeping the peace, without losing his own sense of reality as well.

For everyone who loves the farce of David Lodge and Michael Frayn, or even the *Antiques Roadshow*, the fast-paced, hilarious satire of *The Hound in the Left-hand Corner* is sure to delight and entertain.

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Editorial Review

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A single day in the inner workings of a London museum proves deliciously juicy in this satire, a best-seller in the U.K. This is no ordinary day at BRIT: The Museum of British History; it's the carefully choreographed opening of a major exhibit about the eighteenth century (entitled simply "elegance"), featuring a Gainsborough painting owned by museum chairman Sir Lewis Burslem, with festivities including a sit-down dinner for 400 with a royal as honored guest as well as a controversial trustees' meeting. Yet despite the model provenance of the painting that is the brand for the exhibit, curator Jane Vaughan has misgivings about the greyhound in the lower left-hand corner. Although the day's events could prove pivotal to the careers and love lives of others, Jane is dogged, and--as expected from the start--things go awry. Waterfield, who knows this territory, gives us politics, money, romance, and a chef who ends up in a vat of raspberry coulis--great entertainment. *Michele Leber*

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Review

The Observer (London) A rumbustious and hugely entertaining satire.

About the Author

Giles Waterfield has worked at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton and as director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London. He now writes, teaches, and curates exhibitions. His first novel, *The Long Afternoon*, published in England, won the McKitterick Prize in 2001.

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