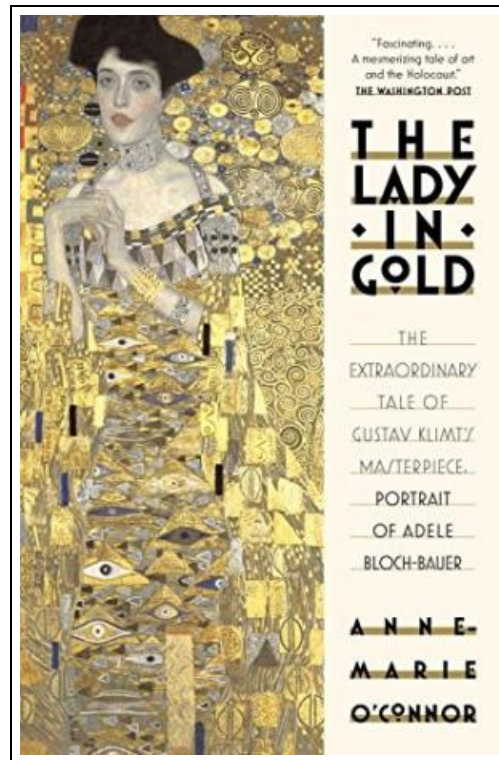


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Vintage. Paperback. Condition: New. 368 pages. The spellbinding story, part fairy tale, part suspense, of Gustav Klimts Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, one of the most emblematic portraits of its time; of the beautiful, seductive Viennese Jewish salon hostess who sat for it; the notorious artist who painted it; the now vanished turn-of-the-century Vienna that shaped it; and the strange twisted fate that befell it. The Lady in Gold, considered an unforgettable masterpiece, one of the twentieth centurys most recognizable paintings, made headlines all over the world when Ronald Lauder bought it for 135 million a century after Klimt, the most famous Austrian painter of his time, completed the society portrait. Anne-Marie OConnor, writer for The Washington Post, formerly of the Los Angeles Times, tells the galvanizing story of the Lady in Gold, Adele Bloch-Bauer, a dazzling Viennese Jewish society figure; daughter of the head of one of the largest banks in the Hapsburg Empire, head of the Oriental Railway, whose Orient Express went from Berlin to Constantinople; wife of Ferdinand Bauer, sugar-beet baron. The Bloch-Bauers were art patrons, and Adele herself was considered a rebel of fin de sicle Vienna (she wanted to be educated, a notion considered degenerate in a society that believed women being out in the world went against their feminine nature). The author describes how Adele inspired the portrait and how Klimt made more than a hundred sketches of hersimple pencil drawings on thin manila paper. And OConnor writes of Klimt himself, son of a failed gold engraver, shunned by arts bureaucrats, called an artistic heretic in his time, a genius in ours. She writes of the Nazis confiscating the portrait of Adele from the Bloch-Bauers grand palais; of the Austrian government putting the painting on display, stripping Adeles Jewish surname from it so that no...



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