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News
from
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For ten years, it has been eagerly anticipated by readers across the country and around the world. On November 1st, the waiting will end as Knopf publishes the new novel by the acclaimed and internationally bestselling author of *A SECRET HISTORY*:

Donna Tartt's THE LITTLE FRIEND



“Her first novel was a surprise runaway bestseller; this time around, no one should be taken by surprise.

With muscular, visceral descriptive prose and a relentless narrative drive—the climax is almost unbearably tense—Tartt details how a young girl exacts street justice with cold cunning. Exceptionally suspenseful, flawlessly written, and teeming with out-sized characters and rolling emotion. Well worth the wait.” —*Booklist*, starred review

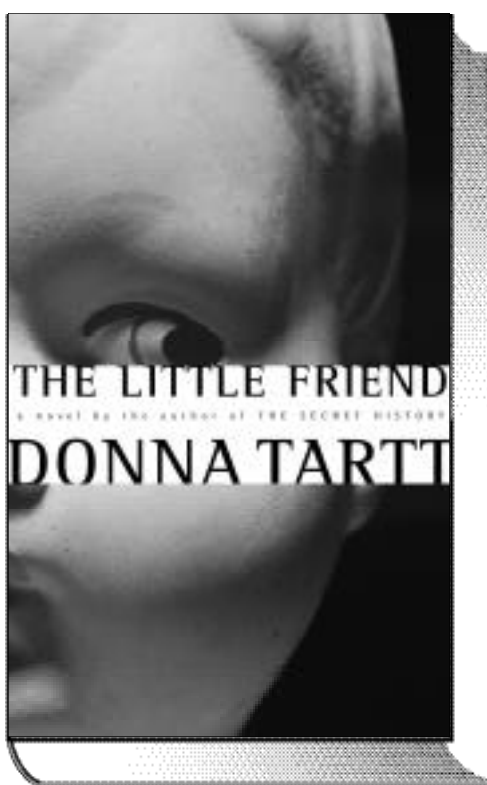
“*The Little Friend* confirms her talent as a superb storyteller .

“If the theme of *The Secret History* was intellectual arrogance, here it is dangerous innocence. The death of nine-year-old Robin Cleve Dufresnes, found hanging from a tree in his own backyard in Alexandria, Miss., has never been solved. The crime destroyed his family: it turned his mother into a lethargic recluse; his father left town; and the surviving siblings, Allison and Harriet, are now, 12 years later—it is the early '70s—largely being raised by their black maid and a matriarchy of female relatives headed by their domineering grandmother and her three sisters.

“Although every character is sharply etched, 12-year-old Harriet — smart, stubborn, willful — is as vivid as a torchlight. Like many preadolescents, she’s fascinated by secrets. She vows to solve the mystery of her brother’s death and unmask the killer, whom she decides, without a shred of evidence, is Danny Ratliff, a member of a degenerate, redneck family

of hardened criminals. Harriet’s pursuit of Danny, at first comic, gathers fateful impetus as she and her best friend, Hely, stalk the Ratliffs, and eventually, as the plot attains the suspense level of a thriller, leads her into mortal danger. Harriet learns about betrayal, guilt and loss, and crosses the threshold into an irrevocable knowledge of true evil.

“Tartt has achieved perfect control over her material, melding suspense, character study and social background. Her knowledge of Southern ethos—the importance of family, of heritage, of race and class—is central to the plot, as is her take on Southerners’ ability to construct a repertoire, veering toward mythology, of tales of the past. In her first novel, Tartt unveiled a formidable intelligence. *The Little Friend* flowers with emotional insight, a gift for comedy and a sure sense of pacing.” —*Publishers Weekly*, starred, boxed review



“Tartt appears to have struck gold once again.”

—*Kirkus*, starred review

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