

Readers Guide

1. After attending Wagner operas in Bayreuth, art history Professor Megan Crespi and her former student, surgical oncologist Dr. Rick Bodewell, are driving through southern Germany on their way to visit “mad” King Ludwig’s castles. Suddenly an aggressive motorcyclist comes out of nowhere, forcing the car in front of them to veer into a ditch off the highway. The occupant of the other car is Iris Togarassy and she suffers a dislocated shoulder. Rick offers to reset it and they go to her nearby home. After the shoulder is successfully reset, Megan notices a painting on the living room wall that is at once familiar to her and not familiar. She studies it and realizes it is an exact copy of Wassily Kandinsky’s unfinished *Mounted Warrior* in Munich’s famous Lenbach House Museum. But this one is finished! What a conundrum.

2. Billionaire Igor Rasputin is furious. Russia's president Yabeda Tupinsky has withdrawn financial support for his dearest project, the structure already well under way. And the Kandinsky collector in Moscow, Boris Zima, has withdrawn his offer of a painting donation. Brooding, Rasputin suddenly knows what must be done. It necessitates initiating the Plan. What is Rasputin's project and does it have any nationalistic aspects? Do we know what the Plan is?

3. Katrina Keller, grand-niece of a famous great-aunt, has won her prolonged lawsuit against the Bavarian State for return of her great-aunt's house in Murnau. Her grandmother Emma had loaned half her inheritance for purchase of the Yellow House in 1909, but had never been paid back. Katrina's profession will keep her in Munich, but she will be making frequent visits with her little savant syndrome-afflicted, epileptic six-year-old son Herbert to the village on the Staffelsee. Do we have any

idea who Katrina's famous great-aunt is? Where is Murnau?

4. Her damaged shoulder relocated, Iris talks with Megan and Rick over tea in her living room and tells them her husband Laszlo has just opened an art gallery in Munich's Schwabing district called The Blue Rider. They discuss a 1903 Kandinsky "finished" painting across the room from them on the wall. In pain from the car accident, Megan does not walk over to examine it closely. Instead a surreptitious photo with her Google Glass will have to suffice. When Megan mentions that they plan to visit Murnau, they learn from Iris that the Münter House Museum is now privately owned and is no longer open to the public. We learn that as a young student from Texas, Megan had visited Münter and shown her photos of places the artist had been as a young girl. Some instinct prompts Megan not to mention to Iris that she had met Kandinsky's partner in person.

5. We learn about the ballerina Alexandra Danilova's 1997 bequest of a 1914 Kandinsky painting titled *Swan Lake* to one Igor Rasputin in Odessa. What had Kandinsky said when he gave Danilova the painting? Who is Marigold Lamb?

6. The neo-classical building at Richard-Wagner-Strasse 33, facing the back side of a glaring new copper tube-sheathed addition to Munich's famous Lenbach Haus Museum, had not changed since its construction in 1899. Neither had its ownership. But bachelor Heinrich von Frauenberg, last scion of one of Bavaria's most ancient noble families, had inherited the handsome edifice, Paleo, but little else. What happens that saves him financially?

7. When the city of Munich appoints Dr. Max Mürrisch as new director of the Lenbach House Museum, conservator Katrina Keller, who had held the post ad interim, is deeply disappointed.

What does Max do that angers Katrina? And who asks for a private consultation with her?

8. Back on the road to Füssen Megan and Rick discuss the two castles, and the childhood of Ludwig. What are the details? And what does Megan pull up on her iPhone?

9. Dzhim Kabalovitschy, the “hermit of Amiinyi,” the small island in the Black Sea near Odessa, is a computer wizard and lives with the younger Tigr Chastnyy, a famous science photographer. What is the technique they have developed that, in the right hands, would be a boon to museum conservators, but in the wrong hands, a danger? And why is Igor Rasputin visiting the two “island boys,” as he calls them?

10. Megan and Rick visit two Ludwig castles, Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein. How are they different from one another?

11. In Munich, Katrina has dinner with Igor Rasputin. He shows her a photograph of a Kandinsky work that will be the center of his museum, but a Kandinsky of two worlds. Describe the painting and explain why this is so.

12. The Amiinnyi island couple have arrived in Munich and their friend Alyksandr Miesel is looking forward to showing them their spacious second-floor apartment at Richard-Wagner-Strasse 33. Miesel's studio is below on the ground floor. Both apartments have been provided by their mutual wealthy Ukrainian friend, and both face the back of the new Lenbach House Museum addition. Can we guess who the Ukrainian is?

13. In Moscow, vodka baron Boris Zima receives a progress call from his agent in Munich, Raisa Sokolov. She informs him that his rival collector, Igor Rasputin, is having dinner with the Lenbach House Museum's associate director Katrina Keller. Why does this

worry Boris? And how does Raisa calm his fears?

14. Rick and Megan plan to visit Ludwig's Linderhof Palace and then go on to see Richard Strauss' villa. Where is Strauss' villa and what side trip do they plan to take as well? What hotel and in which town do they plan to stay that evening? Why does Rick jokingly but correctly diagnose his former professor as having a touch of Obsessive Compulsion Disorder?

15. Rasputin has a request of Katrina. He would like permission to photograph with new state-of-the-art techniques the abstract Kandinskys in the Lenbach Museum. She agrees and asks what evening, when the museum is closed, would he and his team like to come. What is Rasputin's answer?

16. Tigr and Dzhim have returned to Paleo after dinner with Alyksandr Miesel, who shows them the studio in which they set up their camera and

photo-developing equipment. What are the items he has already installed for them? And what does he answer after being asked when certain paintings will be obtained?

17. Laszlo Togarassy is told by his wife Iris that the American professor she had met might come by to see his Blue Rider gallery. What is Laszlo's reaction?

18. Berlin-based *Germany for Germans* party boss Ottkar Hasstmann is in Munich visiting the Munich party boss, Walter Krankenhauer. What are they planning and for which day?

19. In Monte Carlo, young impulsive Baron Heinrich von Frauenberg has lost badly at five-hand poker. He owes the casino 60,000 euros. What ingenious idea comes to him and why would he fly to Munich that very Friday?

20. Boris is sure Katrina Keller is in cahoots with his Moscow rival. Raisa tells him she

followed Rasputin to a building facing the back side of the Lenbach and that he entered with his own key for a stay of only ten minutes. She informs Boris that she has bugged Katrina Keller's apartment, and that on weekends she has followed her and her six-year-old son Herbert to the Englischer Garten. She observes something strange about the boy. Something that would put pressure on Keller should they need to kidnap him. What medical condition might he have? And what is Boris's reaction?

21. After overnighing in Murnau, Megan and Rick walk over to the Yellow House where Münter had lived. What shocks Megan about the grounds? What measures does she take and what does she see? At the Schlossmuseum, where Münter's works are displayed, they are told that no one knows the identity of the new owner of the Münter house. What kicks off Megan's conspiracy theories? What else do they visit later and what is their final destination?

22. From the Königsplatz in Munich, neo-Nazi Walter Krankenhauer leads a huge protest mob toward the Lenbach House Museum. Posters are set afire and bricks are thrown at the museum personnel. What is the demonstration about? Katrina comes out to calm the crowd. A brick hits her and Megan and Rick rush to her aid, driving her to a medical emergency clinic. What are her injuries and what does she suddenly remember that causes her to call the museum's night watchman?

23. At Paleo, Rasputin and his men hear shouting one block away and walk over to watch a demonstration in progress right in front of the Lenbach. He decides his long-planned operation should begin immediately. What comes into play now?

24. Raisa Sokolova has been trailing Rasputin and spies him and his men running to see the demonstration in front of the Lenbach. For whom does she work and what does she

witness? Does she see Rasputin again that night?

25 With a brick, Rasputin kills the Lenbach night watchman who opens the museum door to him. How does he link up with his three men in the basement Kandinsky gallery? What important things do they do next? Has Rasputin's Plan worked?

26. Megan and Katrina are watching TV coverage of "a murderous neo-Nazi night at the Lenbach" with the killing of a night watchman and the arrest of neo-Nazi Walter Krankenhauer. The phone rings. It is Herbert's nanny. What dreadful news does she have to tell Katrina?

27. Raisa Sokolova stations herself overnight in the Lenbach Museum delivery dock to keep an eye on the comings and goings at Richard-Wagner-Strasse 33 opposite. At five am she hears a large vehicle approaching. It is a white

Cargo Logistik moving van and she witnesses the loading of eleven flat bubble-wrapped objects in the van. Some six men are involved. This could only mean one thing. What is it?

28. Having sneaked back to Paleo from Monaco, Heinrich von Frauenberg observes Rasputin and his men carry eleven large flat bubble-wrapped objects to a moving van . What does he do when the police arrive? And what does he tell Rasputin to do?

29. Raisa reports to Boris Zima all the events: the anti-Kandinsky demonstration the night before, the loading of eleven bubble-wrapped paintings into a moving van early that morning, and a mystifying TV interview with the Lenbach director. What was so perplexing about the interview? What is Boris's reaction?

30. Rick drives Megan and an anxious Katrina to Murnau. On the way, she tells them her secret about the Gabriele Münter house. What is the

secret and why does she think it could be the reason her missing son may have been kidnapped? Once at Murnau they head for the police station. What do they find there? Why is it crucial that Katrina's son have his morning medication?

31. At the Münter house in Murnau, Rick and Megan slowly tour all the rooms, admiring the art. By whom is the art? Realizing Katrina must be exhausted, they take their leave until late the next afternoon, Sunday. Where are they going?

32. Chief Detective Dieter Löser of the Munich police sits across the interrogation table from the man his officers had arrested the night before. A self-confessed neo-Nazi, he is charged with breaking fire regulations and incitement to riot. What is his name and with what else is he charged? What does he tell the detective that incriminates Megan and Rick?

33. Raisa, at lunch after a long nap at her hotel, receives a call from Boris. He has “intervened” with the *Cargo Logistik* van: the driver and his partner are no longer an “inconvenience.” What does he mean by this? Raisa wonders what might happen to her, should she also become inconvenient. Boris tells her about the van’s most interesting new itinerary. For where is it bound?

34 After forcing Rasputin to wire his bank one million euros, Heinrich takes a flight back to Nice and a train to Monte Carlo and his yacht. Who is following him and what measures does the man shadowing him take? Does Heinrich stay aboard his vessel?

35 The vodka tycoon from Moscow has dispatched his number one agent Ivan Ivanov to handle the waylaying of *Cargo Logistik’s* van. Where and how is this achieved?

36 Rasputin visits the *Hommage à Kandinsky* exhibition at The Blue Rider Gallery and is much taken by the window display of a Kandinsky that appears to be two paintings linked together. How does he introduce himself to Lazlo Togarassy? What does Laszlo do?

37. Megan and Rick check into Prien's Yachthotel and later take a ferry to the Fraueninsel for dinner. Whose cenotaph do they locate? When Megan addresses Rick by name and takes a Google Glass photograph of her dessert liquor what totally unexpected event occurs?

38. Katrina calls Megan early on Sunday morning to discuss their mutual experience with the Munich detective Dieter Löser. What are their experiences with him?

39. Alyksandr Miesel finally attends to his task at two in the morning. Why has he waited so long? What does he do next that causes him to

speed off in the direction of the Monte-Carlo train station?

40. Raisa makes contact with Rasputin at his hotel, introducing herself as Zima's former secretary, "Svetlana Chernykh." What is her purpose for doing this?

41. Heinrich returns to the Casino La Rascasse dock around six Sunday morning only to discover police barricades around his pier. What has happened and what lifts his mood?

42. Consulting with the Bratislava police, Pavel Meninkov realizes the hijackers could be using a different van. The important thing is to get to Moscow ahead of them. He drives the nine hours to Moscow and arrives at 5:30 Monday morning. Perhaps he is not too late. Too late for what?

43. Megan and Rick return to Katrina's Murnau house early and Herbert plays a new piece he

has learned for them: Bach's organ Fugue in G Minor. Throughout his performance Megan hears a strange vibration, or perhaps rattle. What extraordinary discovery do they make when they remove the back of the harmonium?

44. A double tire blowout above Minsk has caused Ivan Ivanov's men, Dimitri and Anatoly, to lose four and a half hours on the Belarus highway before they can continue on to Russia. What do they resort to and why do they then spray paint the van black and change its license plates back to the original German ones? Their meeting point is the Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow. What time must they be there?

45. Around six Monday morning three vehicles appear by the Novodevichy Cemetery and enact a bizarre ballet involving a silver gray Porsche station wagon, a black *Cargo Logistik* cargo van, and a white Lady Granta sedan. What is enacted and how does the bizarre ballet end?

46. Heinrich is at the doors of the Monte Carlo branch of Cr dit Suisse at eight o'clock on Monday morning to collect his one million euros. But the cashier, then the bank officer decline payment. Why? On what basis? At exactly nine o'clock, Alyksandr Miesel stands in front of the same bank waiting for its doors to open. They do and several clients exit. Alyk gasps. What terrible mistake has he made?

47. Katrina, on crutches and in a cast, takes an Uber to work Monday morning and seeks out Max M rrisch in his office. He is watching the video he made of his TV interview and doesn't notice her crutches. What does he propose to her? And why does she diagnose him as having a huge narcissistic personality disorder.

48. Monday morning Megan and Rick visit The Blue Rider gallery and meet its owner Laszlo Togarassy. How and why does their opinion of him change?

49. Rasputin is bitterly thinking about Katrina Keller's betrayal of him to Zima. He has an assignment for his agent, "Svetlana Chernykh." Who is she really? And what is the assignment?

50. In Moscow, Zima is in ecstasy at becoming the new owner of eleven artworks. By whom were they painted?

51. While awaiting news from Pavel concerning his stolen Kandinskys, Rasputin has to admit his extended Munch stay has been productive. Why? And who will he bring with him to a lecture by Megan Crespi on Kandinsky at the Lenbach Museum. Why?

52. Rick admires the basement gallery Kandinskys while Megan runs through the images of her speech with the Lenbach technician. The auditorium is full and the audience eagerly follows Megan's lecture. The climax comes when she reveals the true and literal meaning of the title "Double Kandinsky."

What is it? Excitement grips the audience and Katrina Keller promises a speedy follow-through with state-of-the-art XRF. What technique is that? Megan should have the images by the time of her lecture at Schloss Berg on Wednesday. Only two people in the audience are not excited by the news: who are they?

53. After people have left the museum auditorium Megan asks Katrina if she could take a look at the basement Kandinskys. What strange thing is it, occurring with all eleven paintings, that captures Megan's attention?

54. Raisa conveys extraordinary news concerning Zima's eleven Kandinskys in Moscow and explains what the "Double Kandinsky" lecture given by Megan Crespi at the Lenbach Museum revealed. She advises him to secure a reliable conservator to examine the

Kandinskys. What does Boris suddenly decide to do?

55. Back at Paleo, Tigr and Dzhim pull out the eleven objects hidden behind their bed headboards. What are these objects? And from whom will they demand a ransom for them?

56. Heinrich the cashless finally arrives in Munich and gets to Paleo by 6:20 Tuesday morning. Tigr and Dzhim hear him enter and confront him. What does Heinrich angrily tell them? And who suddenly ends the silent standoff? Is anyone killed?

57. Katrina and her conservator colleague Paul Ritter examine with an XRF scanner all eleven of the late Paris-period Kandinsky paintings. What surprising things do the scans show? What is the sad conclusion they have to make about the paintings?

58. Alyk Miesel explains to the island boys why he has shot Heinrich. Why and on whose orders did he do so? What do they do with the body?

59. Megan visits the Ostfriedhof to find the grave of Dr. Bernhard von Gudden. With what two very different things is his name connected? When she joins Rick and Katrina at lunch, Katrina swears them to secrecy and tells them what the XRF scans have revealed. What is the mind-blowing discovery?

60. Raisa follows Dilia and Herbert to the Englischer Garten. To what particular spot do they go? What happens next? Do people notice?

61. Rasputin arrives at Paleo and bawls out the men, especially Alyk, for not having handled the Frauenberg murder and cover-up adequately. Why does Tigr sneak upstairs? He commands them to re-plaster the tunnel entrance. What else does he tell them to do? Will he pay them for the job?

62. Megan and Rick are still sitting with Katrina in the Café Ella when Katrina's cellphone rings. It is Diliانا. What shocking news does she tell Katrina?

63. Raisa drives to the cloister of the sisters of Our Lady of the Love of the Good Shepherd. What age-old custom has the cloister revived and how does that suit Raisa's callous actions?

64. Megan urges Katrina to let her call Detective Löser immediately and report what has happened. They do so and Megan sends Löser a crucial photograph taken just a few days ago. What is it and how will it help?

65. Raisa returns to the Lenbach Museum and finds a sign saying KANDINSKY GALLERY TEMPORARILY CLOSED. Why is it closed to the public? She also spots Katrina Keller with Megan and Rick in the café. Keller is weeping. Why does this please Raisa? Back at her hotel

she receives a call from Zima. He is devastated by what his Moscow conservator has discovered about his eleven new Kandinsky paintings. What does he tell Zima? To cheer him up Raisa tells him about what she has delivered to the cloister of the sisters of Our Lady of the Love of Our Good Shepherd. What is his surprise reaction? He'll discuss things with her tomorrow evening in person. Where will that meeting take place?

66. Alyk, Dzhim, and Tigr reopen the tunnel at Paleo. There is a terrible stench. Why? Alyk makes his way through the tunnel. What does he find? Back in the cellar room Alyk throws up. Why? The island boys decide to let him in on their secret. They show him the amazing items hidden in their bedroom upstairs and explain what was sent to Rasputin and what they had placed in the Lenbach Museum. They can now demand ransom from the City of Munich. What is Alyk's reaction?

67. Still smarting from Zima's cool reception of her daring coup, Raisa now calls Raspsutin. His reaction only embitters her more. Why?

68. Sitting outside in their car after driving Katrina home, Megan works on changes in her lecture for the next evening and Rick finds fascinating information online about the possible murder, rather than suicide of King Ludwig at the site where they will be tomorrow evening. Suddenly Diliaa appears yelling that Katrina wants them. Something has happened! Can we guess what?

69. Alyk tells the Amiinyi island boys his daring plan. While it is still dark they will place one of their bubble-wrapped Kandinsky paintings along with a ransom note in the museum loading dock, then alert the museum when it opens. What is the ransom and where is it to be delivered? What unthinkable threat is made if the museum does not pay the ransom? And how

does Alyk's audacious plan avoid the predictable turnout of police?

70. Raisa, furious that neither Rasputin nor Zima have paid her for her work, decides she will demand a ransom for Herbert Keller from his mother for herself. How does she go about this and what is the result?

71. On the roof balcony of Paleo, where they have a view not only of the Königsplatz and its Propylaea but also of the villa roof of the Lenbach, Alyk, Dzhim, and Tigr are testing out Alyk's plan. How will they obtain the ransom money without police intervention?

72. At eight Wednesday morning Katrina has brought Herbert with her to the museum and is greeted with the news that there is a strange recorded phone message for the director about a vital package in the loading dock. Two museum staff members bring it in and rip off the bubble wrap. What good and what bad items do they

find inside? Katrina calls Detective Löser who comes over immediately and debriefs her. She blames herself for having allowed Rasputin and his team into the museum for a photo session. But she has one happy thought. She hopes she can show Löser something positive down in the lab. What could that be?

73. Megan and Rick revisit The Blue Rider gallery as Rick thinks he might like to buy one of the *Hommage* paintings. While he studies Laszlo's replicas, someone else is scrutinizing the outside of the gallery. The man in the hoodie makes his daring move. What does he do? How is it that Megan, by chance, is able to photograph the man in action with her Google Glass? She will email the photograph to Löser immediately. They all know who the man in the hoodie is. Do we?

74. Using their new XRF scanning technique, Katrina and her fellow conservator Paul Ritter examine the Kandinsky found in the museum's

loading dock. What is the marvelous result? Löser asks to see the empty gallery where the stolen Kandinskys had hung and a terrible stench greets them when they enter. After emptying the storage closet they find fresh plaster covering what turns out to be a tunnel. What are the exciting events that follow and who is arrested?

75. Zima arrives in Munich and heads straight for The Blue Rider gallery where he astounds Laszlo by his impromptu action. What is it?

76. Early that Wednesday evening, before Megan's lecture at Schloss Berg, a celebration pizza dinner is held near the Lenbach with Dieter and Penelope Löser, Iris and Laszlo Togarassy, the two museum conservators, and little Herbert. They are all on a first name basis now and take turns asking Dieter questions about the tunnel and arrest of three men on the roof balcony of the building opposite the

museum. What is Laszlo's surprising story of the "two Boris Zimas" about? Penelope urges Dieter to tell the group his theory concerning the Kandinsky conundrum. What is it? Who are the two sets of "victims"? What does Katrina remember that helps to identify Raisa as an agent of Rasputin? What are Dietrich's final words at the end of dinner?

77. The final denouement. Rick is driving Megan, Katrina, and Herbert to the Starnbergersee and Schloss Berg where she is to give her lecture, amplified now, by the eleven images under Kandinsky's eleven Paris-period paintings. What are they? On the way, they discuss the latest evidence on the double death of King Ludwig and Gudden: they were both shot in the back, then placed in the lake to look as though they had drowned. After Megan's lecture and its enthusiastic reception, three members of the audience leave immediately. They are Boris Zima, Igor Rasputin and, following unnoticed behind them, Raisa

Sokolova. They head down to the lake shore along the same forest path King Ludwig and Gudden had taken. As they reach the water's edge, three shots ring out, and then a fourth one. What has happened? And what amazing historical parallel does Rick point out as he and his companions stare at the bodies on the ground? After Dietrich has handled removal of the bodies, he proposes they all drive back to Munich and meet at the Hofbrauhaus. Megan looks at the friends grouped around her, old and new: Rick, Katrina, Herbert, Iris, Laszlo, Dieter, and Penelope and agrees it is time to raise a glass of beer to celebrate the return of the stolen Kandinskys and the solving of the Kandinsky conundrum. To what vital player in all this is her final toast dedicated?