



Voltaire's Calligrapher

A Novel

Pablo De Santis

A Harper Perennial Paperback Original

The widely acclaimed author of *The Paris Enigma* is back with another mystery, this one set during the height of the 18th century's Enlightenment, in pre-revolution France, where the skilled, yet fading, craft of a renowned calligrapher is at the heart of a breathless steampunk...

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When our novel's protagonist, Dalessius, is 20, he comes to work for one of the Enlightenment's most famous minds, Voltaire. Through the young calligrapher's eyes, we are witness to the miracles of Europe in the 18th century: automata, inventive henchmen, strange bordellos, mechanical execution devices, invisible and poisonous ink, ponds filled with poisonous fish, sinister castles and a coach service for corpses, all of which are players in the Enlightenment's battle against the dark powers of the dying remnants of The Dark Ages. When individuals conspire to stop this amazing progress, as well as the effects of Voltaire's cunning wit, Dalessius finds himself solving an entertaining and enthralling mystery.

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Author Bio

Pablo De Santis was born in Buenos Aires, studied literature at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and subsequently worked as a journalist and comic strip creator, becoming editor-in-chief of one of Argentina's leading comics magazines, *Fierro*. De Santis is also the author of a number of books for young adults. He lives in Buenos Aires.