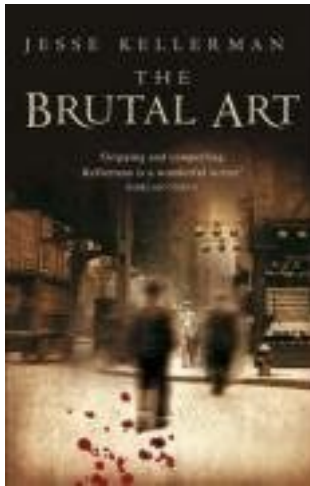


# The Brutal Art



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著者:Jesse Kellerman

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Harlan Coben on The Genius

"In the beginning, I behaved badly."

That's how the uber-talented Jesse Kellerman opens up his newest novel, *The Genius*, and right away, he has you.

I won't give you a long plot summary because others will do it better, but briefly: A young art dealer named Ethan Muller manages to get hold of a treasure trove of original art after the artist, an unknown shut-in named Victor Cracke, disappears. The first sign of trouble crops up when a retired cop recognizes one of the figures as being a boy who died some 40 years earlier. Ethan's life spirals out of control from there. Before the story is over, Ethan will learn to question everything about his "wonderful" discovery--as well as his own family's destiny.

Yes, the book is gripping and compelling and Ethan Muller, the narrator, is wonderfully wry company, but what truly separates Kellerman from the pack is his prose. Simply put, he is a wonderful writer. He has the ability to make everything seem, well, true. Every scene has that ring of authenticity that's so elusive in fiction. I bought everything that Ethan did--and loved the flashbacks showing how the Muller family went from poor immigrants to real-estate tycoons.

I love books where past crimes will not stay buried. The web of deceit in *The Genius* stretches back four decades, but it is still claiming victims. Jesse Kellerman tightens the noose slowly, and we his readers can do nothing but turn the pages.

I have been a fan since his debut, *Sunstroke*, but he's getting better and better. If you've already read Jesse Kellerman, don't waste anymore time reading this review. If you haven't yet discovered his work, *The Genius* is the place to begin--and not a bad description of the author.

作者介绍:

Jesse Kellerman was born in Los Angeles in 1978. His plays have won several awards including the 2003 Princess Grace Award, given to America's most promising young playwright.

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