

ARTIFICE

SHARON CAMERON

Dear Reader,

Artifice is a book written about things I love. Art, art forgers, and heists. Amsterdam. The bravery and inventiveness of the Dutch Resistance. The incredible true story of a clever artist who faked a Vermeer and sold it to Hermann Goering, and who then had to prove himself a forger or be executed as a collaborator after the war. The true story of a quiet man, a man who risked everything to smuggle 600 Jewish babies out of Amsterdam.

And I wondered about these two men who never met, and what might have happened if someone had funded that baby smuggling ring with the millions being funneled into art? If someone could trick the Nazis into paying for the rescue of the very children they were trying to kill? It would look like collaboration, but it wouldn't be. Not if they sold Hitler a fake.

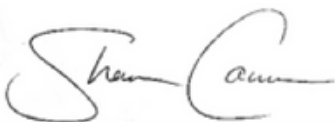
If I had spent my life in an art gallery in Amsterdam, seen the beauty of my world upended, made ugly by death and by hate, would I have been able to resist such an idea? I'd like to think not.

So, I wrote a book about the fight to preserve beauty. Finding that beauty in an ugly world. I wrote about the courage and conviction of heroes. The line between survival and collaboration, reality and a fake. I wrote a book about how the imperfections of art can be like the mistakes of life, blemishes that can be accepted, incorporated, redrawn, until the mistakes are unrecognizable. Until what is ugly has un-become. Until beauty is rebuilt.

And that makes Artifice not a book about then, but a book about now.

Thank you so much for reading and for the ongoing love and support for *The Light in Hidden Places* and *Bluebird*.

With gratitude,



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