

In Our Secret Life: A Novel

by A. Tony Mendoza · Sly Dog Press · On sale October 27, 2026

A love story. An art heist. A secret worth \$160 million.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Nobody suspects the schoolteachers. You wouldn't have either.

In 1955, Jerry and Rita Adler meet in the Catskills: two pickpockets who know their own kind on sight. Recognition becomes a pact, and the pact becomes a marriage: fifty-seven years, two children, a hundred countries, and a life no teacher's salary could ever explain. Of everything they ever took, only one thing stayed: a woman in ochre, behind their bedroom door for more than thirty years.

Rita tells the story herself, moving backward from her final days, as the illness taking her memory threatens the secret she guarded her whole life. The mind that hid everything is now trying to give it away.

Inspired by the real 1985 theft of Willem de Kooning's *Woman-Ochre*, the novel does not solve the case. It imagines the marriage behind it. Jerry and Rita Adler are fictional characters.

BOOK DETAILS

Title	<i>In Our Secret Life: A Novel</i>
Author	A. Tony Mendoza
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Available from	Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org and independent bookstores

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A. Tony Mendoza is an El Paso entrepreneur, publisher and editor who started his first business at nineteen. He published an El Paso business newspaper and was named the U.S. Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneur of the Year. *In Our Secret Life* is his first novel.

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