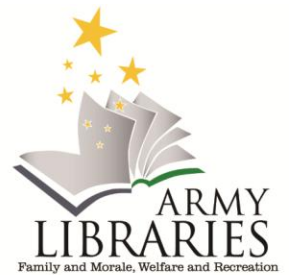
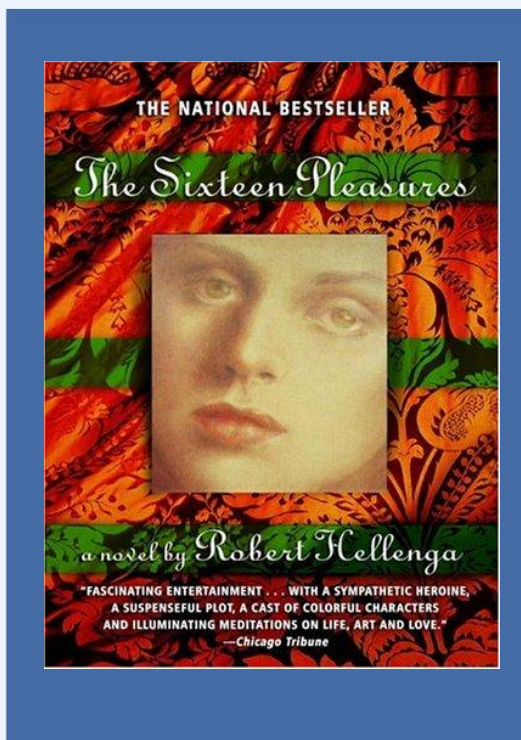


VICENZA LIBRARY BOOK CLUB



THURSDAY, JULY 7, 7 P.M. THE SIXTEEN PLEASURES BY ROBERT HELLENGA



Margot Harrington, a 29-year-old book conservator, is one of the many Americans who flock to Florence, Italy, to help restore its priceless treasures after the flooding of the Arno in 1966. She begins by volunteering at the Villa I Tatti, but soon, through the offices of an urbane, fiftyish art expert named Sandro Postiglione, she finds herself working and living at a Carmelite convent, helping save its valuable library. One of the books turns out to be an extremely rare volume of Renaissance erotica bound with a book of prayers. The mother superior asks Margot to find a way to sell the volume without the knowledge of church authorities in order to raise money to keep the convent library intact. Thus begins an odyssey that takes Margot to a rare book dealer in Basel, Switzerland, and to Sotheby's in London, as well as into Dottor Postiglione's bed. The novel has a few awkward elements, such as the underdeveloped device of Margot's glamorous double, Margaux. But on the whole it's a rewarding read, with a witty heroine, a marvelous setting, and lots of fascinating detail about book conservation and the restoration of art.

BRING A SNACK TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND DISCUSS
THE BOOK OF THE MONTH. BEVERAGES PROVIDED.

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