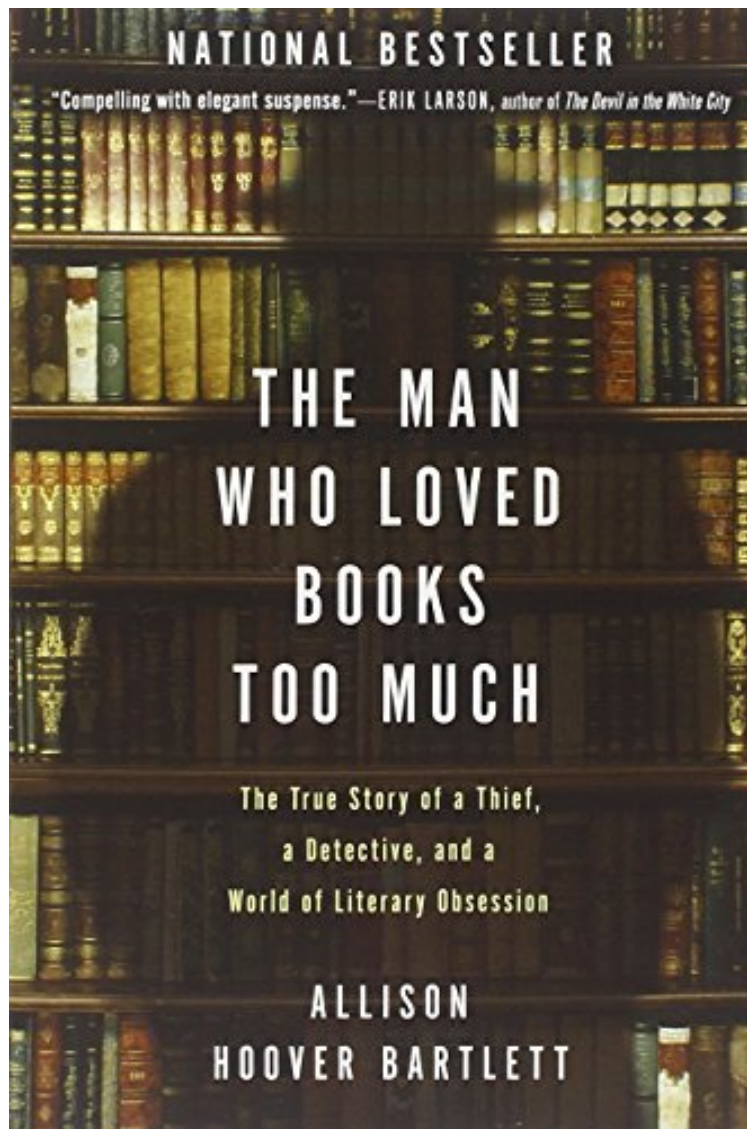


[Free read ebook] The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession

The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession

Allison Hoover Bartlett

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#405389 in Books Riverhead 2010-10-05 2010-10-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .80 x 5.60l, .54 #File Name: 1594484813288 pages | File size: 38.Mb

Allison Hoover Bartlett : The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The story of a book thief, the man who brought about his arrest, and the journalist who wrote about it

By Dora L. Davison
John Gilkey is a book thief. He loves antiquarian books and feels that he is entitled to them regardless of his ability to pay for them. His best scam was using credit card receipts acquired in his job at a high end department store to finance his book buying habit. Ken Sanderson was the person in charge of documenting thefts of books for the Antiquarian Booksellers Association. It was through the work of Sanderson that Gilkey was charged, jailed, and some of the stolen books recovered. Allison Hoover Bartlett was the journalist who tried to determine what made both men tick. This was not a bad read but it was not a great read. I felt that the author was too enamoured of the thief. I don't have any idea of who would want to read this book. It was a selection of my book club or I probably would not have read it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Reads like a detective story!

By Lisa Duncley
This book is partially about the notorious book thief John Gilkey, and the bookseller who became obsessed with catching him, Ken Sanders, and partially about the rare book industry in general. Author Allison Bartlett manages to contact John and repeatedly interview him, exploring the mindset of someone who feels it's really not wrong to "acquire" books without paying for them, since he deserves them. Ken Sanders has spent years trying to defeat book thieves in general, and John in particular. He has become an amateur detective and is able to implement safeguards industry wide to prevent theft, as well as alert booksellers all over to the cons practiced by John. One of my favorite things is a book where I learn something—if it's new information that is presented in an engaging fashion, I am riveted—and this book is full of fascinating tidbits about the rare book industry. As a book lover who loves books for the stories and information within, it is engrossing to read about people who spend fortunes to acquire books that they will never read, or rarely even touch. This is the rare nonfiction book that reads like a detective story—and is just as hard to put down.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.
thief who steals anything that looks like it will be impressive

By Thoreau book man
As a book-lover, I thought I was going to read a work about a clever bibliophile who lost himself in an obsession. Instead, this is a book about a cheap, petty, thief who steals anything that looks like it will be impressive. His method of theft is clumsy (using stolen credit card numbers), and his knowledge of books is minimal. He victimizes small bookstores for rather modest loot. There is nothing to interest an informed reader. A much better book is *The Map Thief*, whose protagonist knows the world of maps, printing, book selling and history as well as anyone in the field, and whose author demonstrates a substantial knowledge and interest of the subject, and a book that the reader actually can learn something from. But "*The Man Who Loved Books Too Much*" is so mis-titled it hurts anyone who is interested in books.

In the tradition of *The Orchid Thief*, a compelling narrative set within the strange and genteel world of rare-book collecting: the true story of an infamous book thief, his victims, and the man determined to catch him. Rare-book theft is even more widespread than fine-art theft. Most thieves, of course, steal for profit. John Charles Gilkey steals purely for the love of books. In an attempt to understand him better, journalist Allison Hoover Bartlett plunged herself into the world of book lust and discovered just how dangerous it can be. John Gilkey is an obsessed, unrepentant book thief who has stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of rare books from book fairs, stores, and libraries around the country. Ken Sanders is the self-appointed "bibliodick" (book dealer with a penchant for detective work) driven to catch him. Bartlett befriended both outlandish characters and found herself caught in the middle of efforts to recover hidden treasure. With a mixture of suspense, insight, and humor, she has woven this entertaining cat-and-mouse chase into a narrative that not only reveals exactly how Gilkey pulled off his dirtiest crimes, where he stashed the loot, and how Sanders ultimately caught him but also explores the romance of books, the lure to collect them, and the temptation to steal them. Immersing the reader in a rich, wide world of literary obsession, Bartlett looks at the history of book passion, collection, and theft through the ages, to examine the craving that makes some people willing to stop at nothing to possess the books they love.