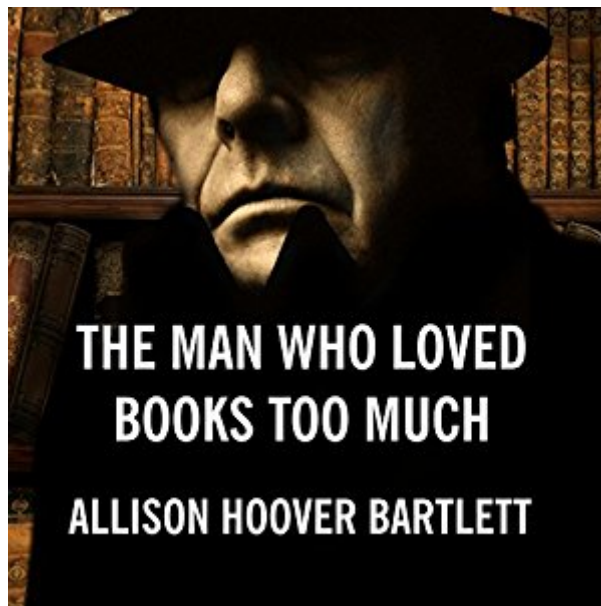


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The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story Of A Thief, A Detective, And A World Of Literary Obsession



Synopsis

Unrepentant book thief John Charles Gilkey has stolen a fortune in rare books from around the country. Yet unlike most thieves who steal for profit Gilkey steals for love -- the love of books. Perhaps equally obsessive is Ken Sanders -- This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 7 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: February 5, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0037B35QA

Best Sellers Rank: #26 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home >

Antiques & Collectibles #121 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles >

Books #605 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime

Customer Reviews

Despite its title, "The Man Who Loved Books Too Much" is not a book about some especially avid reader who becomes so obsessed with reading that he allows it to take over the rest of his life. One only has to read the book's subtitle, "The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession," to learn that "the man" in question had a much different problem. That John Gilkey is an obsessed book collector is beyond question. Gilkey's gnawing desire to own rare books, however, does not make him unique - or even uncommon. People collect a variety of objects for a variety of reasons and many of them do become obsessed with the chase and the displaying of their "trophies." What makes Gilkey unusual enough to have a book written about him is that he entirely satisfies his urge to own rare books by stealing them. Price is no object for a man who never intends to pay for the books he adds to his personal library. In "The Man Who Loved Books Too Much," Allison Hoover Bartlett combines Gilkey's story with that of the man who became obsessed with stopping his thefts, rare book dealer Ken Sanders. Against all odds, she was able to befriend both men to such a degree that she was able to gain insight into what motivated each of them - one to

steal books and the other to spend countless hours trying to stop him. Bartlett spent a great deal of time getting to know John Gilkey. She visited him in jail when he was serving time for stealing expensive items from rare book dealers; she interviewed him extensively while he was a free man; and she visited his mother's home where she was allowed to see some of the books being kept for him there.

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