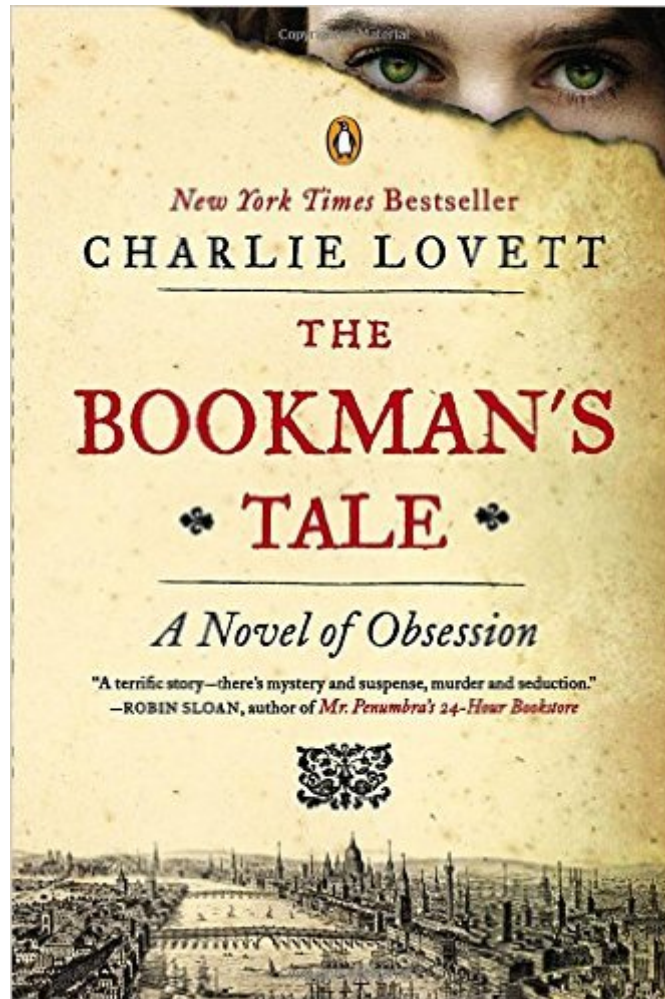


The book was found

The Bookman's Tale: A Novel Of Obsession



Synopsis

A mysterious portrait ignites an antiquarian bookseller's search through time and the works of Shakespeare for his lost love. Charlie Lovett's new book, *The Lost Book of the Grail*, will be available from Viking on February 28, 2017. Guaranteed to capture the hearts of everyone who truly loves books, *The Bookman's Tale* is a former bookseller's sparkling novel and a delightful exploration of one of literature's most tantalizing mysteries with echoes of *Shadow of the Wind* and A.S. Byatt's *Possession*. Nine months after the death of his beloved wife Amanda left him shattered, Peter Byerly, a young antiquarian bookseller, relocates from North Carolina to the English countryside, hoping to outrun his grief and rediscover the joy he once took in collecting and restoring rare books. But upon opening an eighteenth-century study of Shakespeare forgeries, he discovers a Victorian watercolor of a woman who bears an uncanny resemblance to Amanda. As Peter becomes obsessed with learning the picture's origins and braves a host of dangers to follow a trail of clues back across the centuries—all the way to Shakespeare's time and a priceless literary artifact that could prove, once and for all, the truth about the Bard's real identity.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (May 27, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143125389

ISBN-13: 978-0143125389

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (413 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #60,346 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#27 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > Booksellers & Bookselling](#) [#370 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Ghosts](#) [#808 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Mysteries](#)

Customer Reviews

The Bookman's Tale: A Novel of Obsession is a lot of things. It's a love story, mystery, thriller, all combined into one book. Peter Byerly, a socially awkward antiquarian book seller, is still reeling from the death of his beloved wife, Amanda. To escape, he goes to England, hoping to rejoin life by

immersing himself in his first love, books. He happens to come across a watercolor portrait of Amanda while browsing through an old book. The thing of it is, though, is that the painting was done a hundred years prior. Driven by obsession, he steals the picture and finds himself in pursuit of who BB (the artist) and the person in the painting are, while stumbling upon a manuscript that could very well prove that Shakespeare actually wrote his plays. This book had some pretty good selling points for me. Obsession? Bibliophilia? SOLD! I found it to be well written and really interesting. Lovett draws from his own personal experience in the antiquarian book business, and it is very clear that he knows his subject matter. The descriptions of how books are restored and about forgery are in depth and very comprehensible to someone that has no idea about any of that stuff. I really liked how he drew his inspiration from actual documents (such as Shakespeare's Pandosto) and people, yet do not forget that this is primarily fiction. The story shifts between three different stories: present day (or rather, the 1990s), the mid 1980s (Peter and Amanda's love story), and the early 1600s-late 1800s (the story of the Pandosto manuscript, the "Holy Grail" of English literature). The time periods are easily discernable as they are all labeled before it moves into that particular segment.

Our protagonist, Peter Byerly, is a young bookseller who caught the bibliophile bug at (the fictional) Ridgefield University in North Carolina. A scholarship boy with crippling shyness, his preferred work/study job was in the library, because he wouldn't have to interact with anyone. And yet that is where he meets the two great loves of his life: rare books and Amanda. The story actually begins with Peter recently widowed, Amanda having died suddenly after they'd been married only six years. Heartbroken, Peter has fled North Carolina for the cottage in Kingham, Oxfordshire, England that he and Amanda had bought the year before. Now, months later, Peter decides slowly to return to his antiquarian book hunter/seller work. In Hay-on-Wye, the renowned city of bookshops in Wales, he discovers a portrait of Amanda slipped inside an old volume. But it can't be Amanda, because this is a Victorian-era portrait. The discovery electrifies Peter. He must find out where this portrait came from. A request to evaluate a local Kingham resident's manor-house collection of antiquarian books leads Peter on a quest for what he calls the Holy Grail: proof that William Shakespeare really was the author of all those plays and sonnets, rather than Marlowe, de Vere, Bacon or one of the other better-educated writers often claimed to be the more likely source. Peter's two quests become a thrilling adventure, especially for readers fascinated by old books and their travels through time and the lives of their owners. Each chapter tells one of three stories: Peter's modern-day (1995) pursuits, his life with Amanda and the chequered past of the grail book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Bookman's Tale: A Novel of Obsession Mine For Christmas: The Billionaire's Obsession - The Billionaire's Obsession: A Simon And Kara Novella (The Billionaire's Obsession series) The Bookman's Tale The Billionaire's Obsession: The Complete Collection Boxed Set (Mine For Tonight, Mine For Now, Mine Forever, Mine Completely) (The Billionaire's Obsession series Book 1) Bookman and the 1791 Slave Revolt in Haiti: The Beginning of the Haitian Revolution Genji & Heike: Selections from The Tale of Genji and The Tale of the Heike Ramayana: India's Immortal Tale of Adventure, Love and Wisdom: India's Immortal Tale of Adventure, Love, and Wisdom Cinderella: A modern adult fairy tale. (Not quite the fairy tale Book 1) Autumn Princess, Dragon Child: Book 2 in the Tale of Shikanoko (The Tale of Shikanoko series) A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel The Father's Tale: A Novel The Magnificent Obsession Participant's Guide: Embracing the God-Filled Life The Pokemon Go Addiction: Learning to Log Off And Avoid A Troubling Obsession Under Glass: A Victorian Obsession Coffee Obsession Pearls: Ornament and Obsession Gardening at Ginger: My Seven-Year Obsession with Designing and Planting a Personal Landscape The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden Flotsametrics and the Floating World: How One Man's Obsession with Runaway Sneakers and Rubber Ducks Revolutionized Ocean Science Body of Truth: How Science, History, and Culture Drive Our Obsession with Weight--and What We Can Do about It

[Dmca](#)