



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

*Allison Bartlett Hoover*

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People have been collecting—and stealing—books since even before Gutenberg invented the printing press. Internationally, according to Interpol, rare book theft is more widespread than fine art theft.

In *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much*, Allison Hoover Bartlett takes us deep inside the world of rare books and tells the cat-and-mouse story of two men caught in its allure. She introduces us to John Gilkey, an unrepentant, obsessive book thief, and Ken Sanders, the equally obsessive self-styled “bibliodick,” a book-dealer turned amateur detective. While their goals are at direct odds, both men share a deep passion for books and a fierce determination—Gilkey, to steal books; Sanders, to stop him.

As Bartlett tells the suspense-filled story of Sanders's hunt for Gilkey, she also delves into the underlying question of why books have such a lasting fascination for us, collector and lay reader alike.

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