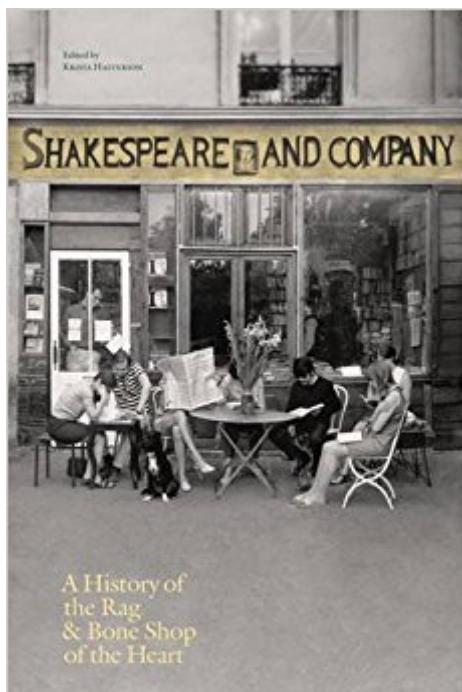


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# Shakespeare And Company, Paris: A History Of The Rag & Bone Shop Of The Heart



## Synopsis

A copiously illustrated account of the famed Paris bookstore on its 65th anniversary. This first-ever history of the legendary bohemian bookstore in Paris interweaves essays and poetry from dozens of writers associated with the shop--Allen Ginsberg, Anaïs Nin, Ethan Hawke, Robert Stone and Jeanette Winterson, among others--with hundreds of never-before-seen archival pieces, including photographs of James Baldwin, William Burroughs and Langston Hughes, plus a foreword by the celebrated British novelist Jeanette Winterson and an epilogue by Sylvia Whitman, the daughter of the store's founder, George Whitman. The book has been edited by Krista Halverson, director of the newly founded Shakespeare and Company publishing house. George Whitman opened his bookstore in a tumbledown 16th-century building just across the Seine from Notre-Dame in 1951, a decade after the original Shakespeare and Company had closed. Run by Sylvia Beach, it had been the meeting place for the Lost Generation and the first publisher of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. (This book includes an illustrated adaptation of Beach's memoir.) Since Whitman picked up the mantle, Shakespeare and Company has served as a home-away-from-home for many celebrated writers, from Jorge Luis Borges to Ray Bradbury, A.M. Homes to Dave Eggers, as well as for young authors and poets. Visitors are invited not only to read the books in the library and to share a pot of tea, but sometimes also to live in the bookstore itself--all for free. More than 30,000 people have stayed at Shakespeare and Company, fulfilling Whitman's vision of a "socialist utopia masquerading as a bookstore." Through the prism of the shop's history, the book traces the lives of literary expats in Paris from 1951 to the present, touching on the Beat Generation, civil rights, May 1968 and the feminist movement--all while pondering that perennial literary question, "What is it about writers and Paris?"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With a wealth of archival documents and photographs from Whitman's collection, and first-hand accounts of encounters and stays at the shop by visitors and residents specifically collected for this publication, the book is a memoir of a place with a magical and warm personality all its own. (Liberty N. Megan Hyperallergic)Even if you have never entered Shakespeare and Company, this book evokes redolent mustiness, the creaking and crinkling of readers shifting in their chairs, the sound of iconic authors turning pages as they read to a rapt audience. It is the familiarity of imagination transporting you to times and places you may or may not have been, and in doing so a sense of this place's personality becomes undeniably present, so much so that you might feel you were there too when Italo Calvino and Pablo Neruda drank wine from empty tuna tins. (Buzz Poole Lithub)An English-language bookshop founded by George Whitman on the banks of the Seine in Paris has been hosting writers and selling the occasional book for 65 years. Krista Halverson explores the history of a countercultural institution and the legacy of Sylvia Beach. (The Guardian)...affectionate tribute...makes you long to live la vie bohème in Paris. (Newsday)...the biography reads like a multi-faceted oral history and is told in many layers: colored photographs, tumbleweed biographies, recounts from former employees and writers-in-residence. The story it tells is as varied, unique, and romantic as the shop is. (Kelsey Ford The Millions)With a community over 65 years old comes a great history and an even greater archive... Shakespeare and Company, Paris: A History of the Rag & Bone Shop of the Heart not only examines the bookstore's presence within the city over time, but features works by acclaimed artists associated with the site, like Allen Ginsberg, Anaïs Nin, Ethan Hawke, Robert Stone and Jeanette Winterson, among others. (Michael Valinsky OUT Magazine)Shakespeare and Company, the small, crumbling bookshop on Paris's Left Bank, may be the most famous bookstore in the world... Conceived as a 'memoir' instead of a history, the project is essentially a rigorous attempt to explain what, exactly, Shakespeare and Company is. (James McAuley Washington Post)Drawing on never-before-seen archives, it's the first book to share the full story of the legendary shop founded by Whitman's late father, George, an American expat, in 1951. A decade-by-decade narrative is interwoven with photographs, newspaper articles, poems, diary entries, and reminiscences by Allen Ginsberg,

Anaïs Nin, Ian Rankin, Ethan Hawke, and others who have crossed the threshold of this literary landmark. (Shannon McKenna Schmidt Shelf Awareness) To call Shakespeare and Company a bookstore doesn't do it justice. The Paris landmark is a literary salon and an unconventional hotel where guests, called Tumbleweeds, help run the shop. Now the English-language bookstore has published its first title. *Shakespeare and Company, Paris: A History of the Rag & Bone Shop of the Heart*, a glorious volume thick with old photographs, newspaper clippings, and reminiscences. Many celebrated writers including James Baldwin, Allen Ginsberg, and Anais Nin considered the shop their home away from home. (Jan Gardner Boston Globe) A new history on one of the world's great bookshops. (Lithub) Edited with love with Krista Halverson, [this] is the nearest thing you'll get to this wonderful book shop on Paris' Left Bank without actually crossing the Channel... Order the book and that will tide you over until your next- or your first- visit. (Erica Wagner Harper's Bazaar) This profusely illustrated 65th-anniversary tribute to Shakespeare and Company, the renowned Left Bank bookstore and mecca for 20th-century literati, is delectable eye candy for lovers of books and reading. (Publishers Weekly) It's gritty, indulgent, wild, perfect and pure inspiration. A must-have for anyone who believes in the power of the independent bookstore. (Kate Layte Lit Hub) Now, much to the delight of its many customers and occasional tenants, the shop's history has been compiled into a book all of its own, entitled *Shakespeare and Company Paris: A History of the Rag & Bone Shop of the Heart* — a satisfyingly weighty hardback tome which places poetry, handwritten notes and even music scores side by side with biography and literary extracts in a chronological order so charming that it hardly seems possible that it can be so extensive. (Another Magazine)

Krista Halverson is the director of Shakespeare and Company bookstore's publishing venture. Previously, she was the managing editor of *Zoetrope: All-Story*, the art and literary quarterly published by Francis Ford Coppola, which has won several National Magazine Awards for Fiction and numerous design prizes. She was responsible for the magazine's art direction, working with guest designers including Lou Reed, Kara Walker, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Zaha Hadid, Wim Wenders and Tom Waits, among others. Jeanette Winterson's first novel, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, was published in 1985. In 1992 she was one of *Granta's* Best of Young British Novelists. She has won numerous awards and is published around the world. Her memoir, *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?*, was an international bestseller. Her latest novel, *The Gap of Time*, is a "cover version" of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. Sylvia Whitman is the owner of Shakespeare and Company bookstore, which her father opened in 1951. She took on

management of the shop in 2004, when she was 23, and now co-manages the bookstore with her partner, David Delannet. Together they have opened an adjoining cafe, as well as launched a literary festival, a contest for unpublished novellas and a publishing arm.

This is a wonderful book. The book takes you through a literary and personal journey. Shakespeare and Company is an English bookstore in the heart of Paris, a wonderful and special institution. I enjoyed this ride. The main narrative is lively but the side trips are extra special and add greatly to the overall feel of the book as a history of the store, its owners, guests and times. The book uses photographs, drawings, document reproductions throughout to tell the story from a very personal but accessible perspective. You come out at the end of the book feeling like you left a special time and place. The editor, Krista Halverson, writes with clarity and compassion. I would strongly recommend the book not only for its subject matter, its style but as a wonderful example of how a printed book can be very special in the age of digital publications.

This is a marvelous history of the Paris bookshop, Shakespeare & Company. If you're any sort of reader and even if you've never been to the shop in Paris it's an enjoyable compendium of notes, photos, and memories of its founder. Sure, it helps to have visited the shop but if you haven't it will feel as though you're there.

A scrapbook about George Whitman and Shakespeare and Company. Great layout and nicely made book. Lots of bits and pieces of memories, bios from the Tumbleweeds, art, photographs, etc., everything you would expect to find in a scrapbook. Some pages about Sylvia Beach, who was the original founder and owner of Shakespeare and Company. She was a true hero. The only thing missing was George Whitman. The entire book is about the experience of OTHERS. The people who stayed there, the artists who read there, the customers, the people who worked there, pretty much everyone but George himself. Now and then there was a sentence he once said and at the very end of the book there is a page written by him. Having said that...in the beginning of the book there are too many pages about his travels around the world as a young man which HAD NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH THE BOOKSTORE. I actually skipped a lot of that part. He was a generous man because during his travels people were kind to him and he, in turn, was kind to others but really...His voice is absent from the book when it comes to Shakespeare and Company, so it was a cool and distant thing, like looking at the place through the eyes of OTHERS, not his. As I said the book is nice. Colorful pages, great fonts. Maybe he never left anything behind. Maybe there was

nothing he had to say about the shop itself. He seemed absent, even though everyone was talking about him on every page.

Visited Shakespeare and Company in Paris and was in awe of the history and culture it personified. This place hosted all the greats, Hemingway, Pound, James Joyce, Aldous Huxley, James Baldwin, Ford Maddox Ford, D.H. Lawrence, Thornton Wilder, John Dos Passos, Henry Miller, F. Scott Fitzgerald and on and on. As a librarian, I was in awe of this place. This book is not for everyone. But if you love books, great writing, and history with your writers, this is the book for you. I actually bought it as a gift for a friend but decided to keep it for myself.

I am a lover of books. In fact, as Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I cannot live without books." This wonderfully written history of one of the world's great bookshops is impossible to put down. I smiled from start to finish and even passed up a couple meal times just so I could continue reading. Not only does the book capture the romance of the bookstore, it makes me want to never stop reading. It reminds me of the joy that comes with reading and the sweet pain that comes with learning and growth. It is a book that speaks life. When my husband and I were in Paris, I knew I had "gone to heaven" when I set foot, for the first time, into Shakespeare and Company. I cannot wait to return. Until that return, this history of the bookstore allows me to live vicariously in the sacred space of Shakespeare and Company.

Excellent photos and history of this beautiful bookstore.

Gave this to my wife as a gift for Christmas. We loved visiting the store in Paris and this brought her right back.

expected more about the man and less about the building

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