

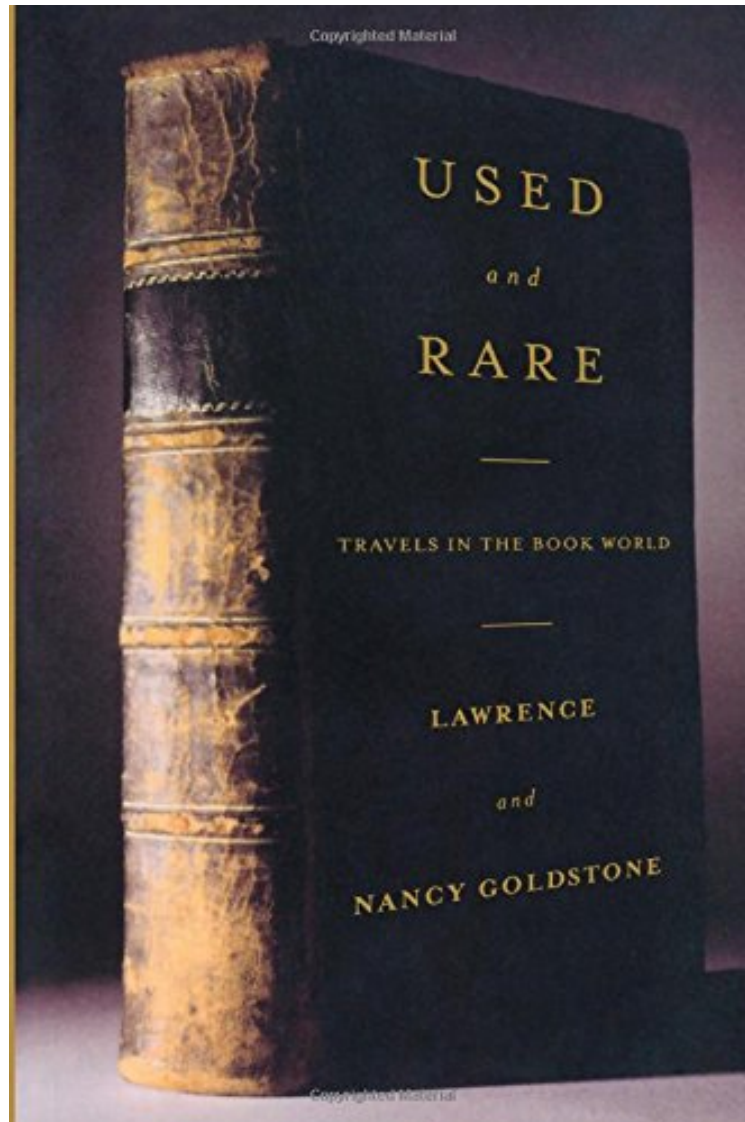
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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book - couldn't put it down
By Annie
Fantastic book - couldn't put it down! I read a lot and also sell books on - and I learned a lot of information about books and how they are graded I didn't know. Plus it is such a fun read! I have since purchased the Goldstone's two follow-on books - am now reading Slightly Chipped - and recommend it! It's just as good as Used and Rare. Then I will move on to Warmly Inscribed. These books are well edited (I'm also an editor of 30 years and recognize good editing when I read it) and so, so readable - but don't begin reading at night in bed because you will NEVER get to sleep (unless you drop the

book). Enjoy!!8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. This was either a waste of time, or a great read. By ADI just finished this book and I can't decide whether it was worth the time or not. Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone tell stories about their trips to rare book stores and auctions. They present some really interesting information about rare books they saw, tips about books from dealers, and the intricacies of what makes books rare. Unfortunately, most of this information is rather terse and quite amateur. The Goldstones seemed to have stumbled into the rare book world and they never manage to advance too far within it. They drive to a bookstore, talk to its owner, look at books they can't afford and almost never buy. They always seem to be broke or unwilling to shell out the dough required to build a valuable library. For them, almost anything over \$80-\$100 is out of the question. I'm sure they have ticked off a few dealers in their day. They even talk about one dealer who never allowed them to view her books, despite several different attempts to come to the store at a good time for browsing. The dealer must have spotted them the instant they walked through the door. Various excuses were given as to why they couldn't look at the collection including a lunch break that was never taken and an "appointment downtown." After the Goldstones were turned away, they noticed the dealer leaning back at her desk, taking a personal phone call. Obviously, they were being blown off. If you were hoping to read a story written by someone who invested \$100,000 in rare books, this is really not it. They buy a couple of \$700 books, but mainly stick to the \$10 bin. There are many amusing anecdotes in the book and it is really very well written; it became hard to put down by the halfway point. This may not be the case for everyone. You have to really be interested in books to enjoy this. I felt like I learned a little about the rare book world, and I feel this is a good introduction to the subject, but I would by no means say that this is an in-depth study of the trade. Jargon is well defined and the plot is very approachable, but I felt it was a little lacking in content. There was a lot of interesting information about Dickens books, some talk about bindings and trade information, but it just wasn't deep enough. It was a good book, but not great. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. so much fun! By Helen Shreves I can't believe how much I enjoyed this book. I wrote down books I knew of and never read or read long ago and long forgotten. The authors' relationship with each other made me feel like I was with them and enjoying the warmth and curiosity they had together. The babysitters, the romantic dates, dinner, hotels. All made the book fun to read. I have read the part of the husband-wife argument on the deserted beach to my husband and friends. It captured the truth of all couples. I have recommended it to everyone.

Journey into the world of book collecting with the Goldstones-rediscover the joy of reading, laugh, and fall in love with books all over again. The idea that books had stories associated with them that had nothing to do with the stories inside them was new to us. We had always valued the history, the world of ideas contained between the covers of a book or, as in the case of *The Night Visitor*, some special personal significance. Now, for the first time, we began to appreciate that there was a history and a world of ideas embodied by the books themselves. Part travel story, part love story, and part memoir, Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone's *Used and Rare* provides a delightful love letter to book lovers everywhere.

.com After years of competitive extravagance at birthday time, Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone decided to limit themselves to \$20 each, which is how they came to be in possession of a \$10 definitive translation of *War and Peace*, complete with maps of the major battles and fold-out color illustrations. It is also how they eventually came to be the owners of a \$650 edition of Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*. *Used and Rare*, the Goldstones' tale of the journey from point A to point B, is a joyful celebration of their love of books. Rare-book dealers are a quirky lot; while one might invite you to caress an *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* worth thousands, another might turn you away altogether for no apparent reason. The Goldstones' enthusiasm is infectious, and, besides offering a lesson in used-book parlance, the pair remind us that for every book there are at least two stories: the one between the covers, and the one beyond the covers. From *Library Journal* The Goldstones are expatriate urbanites who fled jobs on Wall Street to live and write in the Berkshires. With a sense of adventure and fresh beginnings, they relate how they revived their life together and discovered the wonders of old books. Soon they were visiting used and rare book shops and auctions in the remote towns in the region, as well as in Boston, New York, and even as far away as Chicago. Along the way, the reader learns about the lore and minutiae of old books. As the authors flirt with collecting modern first editions, readers are treated to some of the fascinating stories of modern literature and get the insider's view of the arcane ways experts identify a first edition and decide what makes a book valuable. Readers also meet intriguing book sellers and collectors and others who inhabit the world of books. All in all, a delightful education in the book arts; recommended for public libraries. ?Paul A. D'Alessandro, Portland P.L., Me. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Kirkus* sThe Goldstones (Lawrence: *Rights*, 1992; Nancy: *Mommy and the Murder*, 1995; etc.) offer a sprightly paced travelogue that records their education in literary connoisseurship. Their interest in rare books began innocently enough when they challenged themselves to limit spending on birthday gifts for each other. Nancy walked into a Lenox, Mass., bookstore in search of a hardcover copy of *War and Peace* and discovered instead the large, arcane world of out-of-print books. With the discovery in Boston, weeks later, of a \$40 first-edition of B. Traven's novel *The Night Visitor*, they were hooked. At a book fair the Goldstones are stunned to encounter a \$50,000 1914 first edition

Tarzan, by Edgar Rice Burroughs. "Fifty thousand dollars for Tarzan? Could it be that somehow Tarzan was great literature and we didn't know it?" Through visiting all the best stores, attending fairs and auctions, and perusing catalogues, the Goldstones learn to read the dealers' idiosyncrasies and the terminology of the trade, and gain a perspective on the idea that the business of rare books is, after all, a business: Demand drives prices, and (as with antiques and other collectibles) what has value is whatever collectors want. (Soon they plop down several hundreds for a two-volume first edition of Bleak House.) In the manner of good travel writing, the authors' descriptions are evocative, their storytelling compassionate--and frequently hilarious. ("How did you find us?" complains a midtown Manhattan rare-book dealer when the Goldstones arrive on his doorstep. "We control our advertising very carefully.")

And to their bedazzlement, they encounter some real gems, the "one of a kind," the "utterly and completely irreplaceable." In the end, the authors concede, there is satisfaction to be found in more mundane discoveries, too. A sort of Year in Provence for book lovers: an entertaining armchair introduction to an esoteric but captivating subject. --

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