



# Old Books, Rare Friends: Two Literary Sleuths and Their Shared Passion

*Madeline B. Stern, Leona Rostenberg*

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Louisa May Alcott once wrote that she had taken her pen for a bridegroom. Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern, friends and business partners for fifty years, have in many ways taken up their pens and passion for literature in much the same way. The "Holmes & Watson" of the rare book business, Rostenberg and Stern unlocked the hidden secret of Louisa May Alcott's life when they discovered her pseudonym, A.M. Barnard, along with her anonymously published "blood and thunder" stories on subjects like transvestitism, hashish smoking, and feminism.

*Old Books, Rare Friends* describes their mutual passion for books and literary sleuthing as they take us on their earliest European book buying jaunts. Using what they call "'Finger-spitzengefuhl,'" the art of evaluating antiquarian books by handling, experience, and instinct, they treat us to some of their greatest discoveries amid the mildewed basements of London's booksellers after the Blitz. We experience the thrill of finding one of the earliest known books printed in America between 1617-1619 by the Pilgrim Press and learn about the influential role of publisher-printers from the 15th century.

Like a precious gem, *Old Books, Rare Friends* is a book to treasure about the companionship of two rare friends and their shared passion for old books.

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Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled Old Books, Rare Friends: Two Literary Sleuths and Their Shared Passion can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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