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## The Secret Library

### A Book-Lovers' Journey Through Curiosities of History

Oliver Tearle

#### Keynote

As well as taking in the well-known titles that have helped shape the world in which we live, *The Secret Library* brings to light more neglected items among the bookshelves of the world.

#### Description

**A fascinating tour through the curious history of Western civilization told through its most emblematic invention – the book.**

As well as leafing through the well-known titles that have helped shape the world in which we live, Oliver Tearle also dusts off some of the more neglected items to be found hidden among the bookshelves of the past.

You'll learn about the forgotten Victorian novelist who outsold Dickens, the woman who became the first published poet in America and the eccentric traveller who introduced the table-fork to England. Through exploring a variety of books – novels, plays, travel books, science books, cookbooks, joke books and sports almanacs – *The Secret Library* highlights some of the most fascinating aspects of our history. It also reveals the surprising connections between various works and historical figures. What links Homer's *Iliad* to Aesop's *Fables*? Or *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* to the creator of Sherlock Holmes?

*The Secret Library* brings these little-known stories to light, exploring the intersections between books of all kinds and the history of the Western world over 3,000 years.

#### Sales Points

- Looking at the history of Western civilization through the history of books, author Oliver Tearle uncovers some fascinating stories
- Learn about how Western history has been shaped by some of the most well-known, and many forgotten, books
- Oliver Tearle runs a popular blog *Interesting Literature: A Library of Literary Interestingness*
- From the publishers of *Literary London* and *The Seven Noses of Soho* (2015)

#### Reviews

- 'If Oliver Tearle's book is half as interesting as his website *Interesting Literature*, his Twitter feed and his Huffpost blog, it's going to be very interesting indeed' - *John Lloyd CBE, creator of QI*
- 'A fascinating and engagingly genial stroll through several hundred years of literary anecdote and insight. Tearle is wonderfully good company as of course are the protagonists themselves' - *Simon Evans, comedian*
- 'If you love books, you'll need this one' - *Daily Mail*

#### Author Biography

Oliver Tearle is Lecturer in English at Loughborough University (UK), where he completed a PhD (in 2010) and has taught for the last seven years, having also taught at the University of Warwick.

He has run the blog *Interesting Literature: A Library of Literary Interestingness* since December 2012, as well as its accompanying Twitter feed and Facebook page. The Twitter feed is followed by, among many others, the makers of the television series *QI*, the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the *British Library*, the *British Museum*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, and numerous comedians, writers, academics, journalists, politicians, and celebrities.

Oliver is the author of two academic books, *Bewilderments of Vision: Hallucination and Literature, 1880–1914* (Sussex, 2013) and *T. E. Hulme and Modernism* (Bloomsbury, paperback edition 2015), as well as the co-editor of an experimental volume of critical and creative pieces, *Crrritic!* (Sussex, 2011). His proudest achievement is coining the word 'bibliosmia' to describe the smell of old books.