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The Madison Picker



Synopsis

Ventures in the Trade, Travel, & Hunting Design Merit. A grumpy Virginia gentleman and a fiery Peruvian lady have a fun time picking for antiques on a road trip from Key West to Charlottesville. The Madison Picker is a witty occupational novel that reads like PBS's Doc Martin series or All Creatures Great and Small. It is based on the author's own day-to-day experiences as an antiques dealer and collector over four decades. The book's characters are Charles and Emma Dawes. Emma is a Peruvian beauty and certified interpreter. The two met on Match. Other than Charles having more hair than the author, most of the facts are real-world and the anecdotes are not exaggerated. The two live in Barboursville, Virginia and travel far and wide to search for anything that they can buy low to sell high. In this first title in the Picker series they travel to Culpeper, Charlottesville, Lexington, Woodstock, Edinburg, Harrisonburg, Brownsburg, over to Dover, Delaware and then they jet down to Key West with their two pals where Emma goes shopping while Charles pursues the mighty bonefish. They drive back picking antiques along the way. Be advised, Picker reads more like a travelogue than a novel. Day-to-day adventures replace plot peaks. Every discovery they make is a climax - and there are many. If you like Public Television's Antiques Roadshow, Art & Antiques Weekly, or The Maine Antique Digest, you'll probably find a thing or two that you like about The Madison Picker. Available in hardback 5x8, paperback 6x9 Large Print, and eBook versions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Fans of The Antiques Roadshow and Jonathan Gash's Lovejoy series will appreciate this book, which is crammed with details of antiques, history, and the art of collecting... made me want to go out thrift shop hunting and start reading up on collectibles and antiques. Grove's characters and their joy in plying their trade are quite infectious...entertains while it educates, and I'm looking forward to the further adventures of Charles and Emma." -Jack Magnus, 5-Star Review for Reader's Favorite. San Francisco, CA. "This book is the first lesson in a richly rewarding education in examining, researching and buying antiques profitably. Mark Grove shows himself to be a very experienced professional with an outstanding memory who operates by an unshakable ethical code, personal warmth and a rare generosity in sharing rather than hoarding and profiting from his superior knowledge and insight." -Bernard Ewell, author of Artful Dodgers: Fraud and Foolishness in the Art Market. Santa Fe, NM. "Here are the stories antiques dealers won't share: how and where they got the goods, and what they did with them.Â A fast, captivating read for anyone... I enjoyed it very much; in fact I would have loved another 50 pages.Â I've always thought that antiques dealers, appraisers and auctioneers would have a storehouse of fascinating tales about where/how/why they acquired their most interesting finds, but I've never been able to get one to talk about it in public.Â So your book really hit a target with me." -Kent D. Anderson, founder of the database Prices for Antiques. Dayton, OH. "I really enjoyed this story. By far the strongest point is the memorable characters; you do a wonderful job of portraying the colorful, dedicated, and slightly crazy personalities characteristic of so many dealers and pickers." -David Malbuff, previous proprietor of The Strasburg Emporium, Strasburg, VA. (story character, "Jerry"). "Can't wait for the next adventure!" -Barbara Kesser, proprietor Spring Hollow Antiques, Woodstock, VA. (story character, "Janet").

If you are a collector or are contemplating becoming an antiques dealer, bookseller, picker, curator, or merely a tropical vagabond, try reading my Picker Series. Because of its antiques theme it is interesting in a similar way to how John Dunning and/or Jonathan Gash write, and its also quirky like Doc Martin.

I enjoyed this book immensely. Unfortunately, I bought it as a requested gift for my sister's birthday, and as such, I felt I can't give it to her for that occasion with the glaring fault (publisher's?) on pages 209 to 210 - a sentence repeated not by the author for affect, I'm sure. So, I have repurchased it in hardback for the birthday gift and am keeping the paperback (probably with my Jonathan Gash collection). Hopefully, the hardback was more carefully edited.

We're both members of the American Society of Appraisers, but I've never met Mark Grove. Interested to see what a fellow appraiser would write, I found this semi-autobiographical book well written and very entertaining. The anecdotes illustrate the importance of honesty, fairness and trust in the antiques trade and are laced with explanations of technical terms and insights into the workings of the antiques market. Highly recommended.

Just finished Madison Picker and was sorry that it had to end. I would have loved another couple hundred pages of Charles and Emma's adventures. I learned a lot about antiques and how the antique market works - fascinating! It's a fun read if you like antiques and enjoy meeting interesting characters. Definitely worth five stars.

This story is a great one for antiques dealers and collectors. It really held my interest all the time I was reading this type of book. If you have any interest at all in antiques and collectors of memorabilia of all types, you will probably love this.

Mr. Grove claims this is not a book with a plot, but it was quite a nice way to learn about antiques. I want to hear more of his incredible first chapter! !

If you like antiques and want to add more knowledge , this is a book for you. Emma & Charles are delightful and I hope there will soon be a whole series of their adventures.

Packed full of picker knowledge, this light-hearted page turner is fast paced and fun! I can't wait for the sequel! Please hurry

The Madison Picker is very entertaining. The writer does a great job at making creating interest. I would recommend and look forward to more.

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