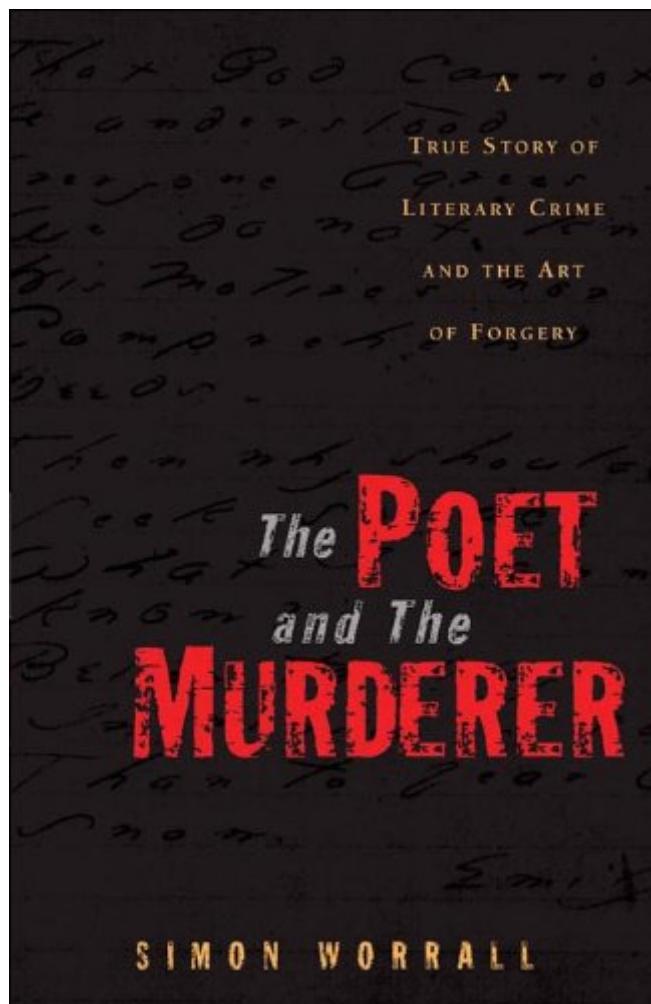


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# The Poet And The Murderer



## Synopsis

"A thrilling story, thrillingly told" (New York Daily News); "Utterly entralling" (Simon Winchester, author of *The Professor and the Madman*); "Masterful" (Errol Morris); "a gripping tale, done with great style and elegance" (William Styron, author of *Sophie's Choice*). These are just a few of the laurels garnered by Simon Worrall's true crime classic, *The Poet & The Murderer*. In this new, revised digital edition, containing new revelations not included in the print edition, acclaimed journalist and author, Simon Worrall, follows the trail of a forged Emily Dickinson poem that mysteriously turns up for sale at Sotheby's in New York. His journey of discovery leads him via the casinos of Las Vegas to Utah and the darkly compelling world of Mark Hofmann, one of the most daring literary forgers and remorseless murderers of all time. Deeply researched but with the narrative pace of a novel, Worrall's investigation into the life and crimes of this charismatic genius is a real-life detective story you simply won't be able to put down. As the story reaches its gripping climax, Hofmann becomes trapped in the web of his own deceptions .... and turns to murder. Praise for Simon Worrall's *THE POET AND THE MURDERER* True Story of Literary Crime and the Art of Forgery: "A gripping tale, done with great style and elegance" (it held me in its spell from beginning to end), William Styron, author of *Sophie's Choice*. "An adventurous and sensational narrative", Peter Ackroyd, *The London Times*. "A terrific story, terrifically told." - *New York Daily News* "An astonishing tale! Enthralling! All this makes for an even more engrossing yarn than that told in "The Surgeon of Crowthorne" - *Financial Times* "All forgery involves a partnership between those willing to deceive and those susceptible to deception. But who would have thought that such a partnership would exist between Emily Dickinson scholars and the Mormon church on one hand, and a strange compulsive and murderous iconoclast, Mark Hofmann, on the other. The forgery of handwritten documents involves a double forgery: the forgery of the way words "look" and what they "mean." Hofmann was a master of both. Worrall has done a masterful job of telling this story from "both" sides. But he also reminds us that writing contains a deep and dark mystery, the mystery of authorship." - Errol Morris. "What a story! I found Simon Worrall's wonderful book utterly entralling. I read it at one sitting and learned all sorts of things from its multitudes of fascinations. To have crafted a book that manages to connect the poignant solitude of Emily Dickinson with the bizarre beliefs of the Mormon church, and by way of tales of bombings, bankruptcy and counterfeiting, is the mark of a truly superb talent." - Simon Winchester, author of *The Professor and the Madman* "Simon Worrall's book is a cracking tale: the labyrinthine story he uncovers is beautifully paced and as complex as any conspiracy theory: a work

of non-fiction, it reads like a thriller. "The Guardian" Simon Worrall takes us on a wild ride through a variety of topics: Dickinson's life, Mormonism, rare book dealing, famous literary forgeries, the biological mechanics of handwriting, self-hypnotism, the history of American printing and the near-criminal, sloppiness of auction-house authentications... fascinating." -The Washington Post "A spellbinding tale of genius irretrievably marred by greed and madness." - The Star-Ledger (Newark) "A terrific book, a compulsive page-turner, and real eye-opener." - Providence Sunday Journal "A true crime standout." - Booklist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Great book. For full disclosure, I have been a life-long lover and student of Emily Dickinson. I have also read and been interested in several books on the nefarious Mark Hoffman. I have enjoyed this work much more than others I have read- it delves less into the dizzying intricacies of all the transactions he made during his criminal heyday, and focuses more on his forging methods and the

underlying psychology of his business. Great work, great value used.

An interesting tale of the dogged pursuit to uncover what might be a forgery. It bashes a few sacred cows such as Sotheby's and the Mormon Church exposing both duplicity and incompetency .The research necessary to uncover the truth about an Emily Dickinson poem uncovers many other falsehoods, and, the book is informative about handwriting analysis and the art and the science of reproducing pages that were created in the past. What would seem to be a dry and bland subject becomes a fast-paced and fascinating account of the hunt to unearth the truth..

A tale of today's times with zealots on all fronts, collectors and auction houses and religious groups - the book delivers a great read in my opinion. Not part of any literary circles myself, no doubt there are other books about Hofmann's escapades and history, but this story shows the "full circle" of deceit regarding all the hands that have owned (or forged)famous books or poems or autographs. Anyone with only a cursory understanding of the world of art resellers, will find the book an eye opener, and in that regard it speaks to the adage caveat emptor. By itself the book could shed enough light on the potential for fraud in the area of "collector" items that it may prompt readers to learn more before they continue collecting.

It's frightening to think how easily we can be deceived. I kept waiting to read that THIS book was false too. I did have difficulty distinguishing between the real Mormon history and the false...they both seemed crazy to me. It also seemed that the author is very biased against the Mormon church. I had some other questions as well, but overall a very interesting read.

Author-Simon Worrall- journalist. This is his first book-2002..270pgs-6photos.-Mark Hofmann 12/7/54-COUNTERFEITER,FORGER-MURDERER.MARK-A man with unique gifts.Emily Dickinson-poet-12/10/1830 to 5/15/1886.SIMON follows the trail of the 1st forged Emily Dickinson poem across America.An interesting journey.SIMON is very knowledgeable on this subject and EMILYs poetry.An auction house that should be .....VERY ashamed.Hofmann is in prison in Draper Utah. Her rooms with an FLDS blood atonement killer.bbp okc ok 63 retired

I really enjoyed this book ,good story i learned a great deal about forgeries and art and all the tricks of the art world and the church of the latter day saints

An unlikely yet true story, well-told! I'd recommend this book to anyone interested in Emily Dickinson, or Mormonism, or murderous forgers of documents.

A great story about a poem allegedly by Emily Dickinson and its forger. A true life mystery; I could not put it down.

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