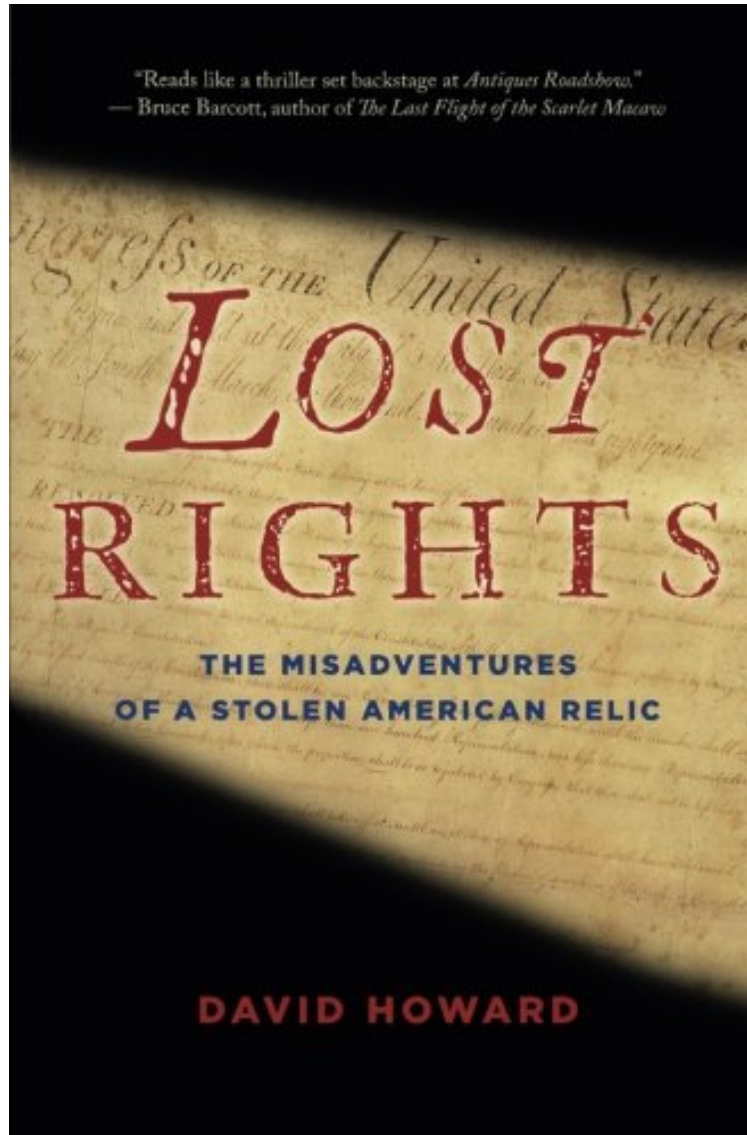


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## Lost Rights: The Misadventures of a Stolen American Relic

David Howard

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**David Howard : Lost Rights: The Misadventures of a Stolen American Relic** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lost Rights: The Misadventures of a Stolen American Relic:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Historical Document Adventure! Yes, Really!By CC ThomasThe introduction to this book was so captivating, so masterful, so story-like, it's hard to believe such a tale actually happened! Who says great adventures only happen in the movies? I find the best ones are the ones from real life and this proves my point.This is the story of one of the fourteen original Bill of Rights. There was one made for each of the

thirteen colonies and one for the federal government. The one for North Carolina was apparently stolen during the sacking of Raleigh at the end of the Civil War and was discovered/revealed decades later in Indianapolis hanging on the wall of a modest home. Let the bidding begin! But, who owns it? The homeowner from Indianapolis or the State of North Carolina? Or is it really the missing document from another state? A cast of characters—both villains and heroes—inhabit these pages and are fit for any Hollywood screen. The convoluted workings of tracing the who/where/what and why of this is so interesting and underling it all is patriotism and greed. I love how a story such as this is so full of scandal and intrigue. So much fuss for such a tiny scrap of paper! This was a very interesting read with a very sobering ending. I have definitely never read a book like this one. If you like mysteries from history, be sure to check it out! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice easy read. Not a story you need to read, but it is a fun one. By M. J. Sears A very good story about a copy of the original bill of rights. It is written more like fiction, which means it is not the normal narrative. It does jump around a bit with a few too many characters. It was enjoyable. Although historically accurate - not an essential piece of American history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Time to find "Lost Rights" By Peter A great historical whodunnit, but also a whostoleit, whosoldit, and whoownsit? Fascinating characters in pursuit of the seminal document of the American idea, with greed commingling with patriotism, and history in battle with today. A lovely, thought-provoking read. Perfect gift for a 4th of July celebration.

Near the close of the Civil War, as General Sherman blazed his path to the sea, an unknown infantryman rifled through the North Carolina state house. The soldier was hunting for simple Confederate mementos—maps, flags, official correspondence—but he wound up discovering something far more valuable. He headed home to Ohio with one of the touchstones of our republic: one of the fourteen original copies of the Bill of Rights. *Lost Rights* follows that document's singular passage over the course of 138 years, beginning with the Indiana businessman who purchased the looted parchment for five dollars, then wending its way through the exclusive and shadowy world of high-end antiques—a world populated by obsessive archivists, oddball collectors, forgers, and thieves and ending dramatically with the FBI sting that brought the parchment back into the hands of the government. For fans of *The Billionaires Vinegar* and *The Lost Painting*, *Lost Rights* is a tour de force of antiquarian sleuthing (Hampton Sides).

From Publishers Weekly Starred . This remarkable American story by Howard, executive editor of *Bicycling* magazine, follows the long, shadowy trail of a single document, North Carolina's wayward copy of the Bill of Rights. With ratification of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution in 1789, 14 elegantly handwritten copies were drafted, one for each of the original states and one for the federal government. Seventy-six years later, at the end of the Civil War, it is believed a soldier with Sherman's army pilfered North Carolina's copy and carried it home to Ohio. The following year it ended up in the possession of Indiana businessman Charles Shotwell, who bought it for only \$5. After 134 years in the Shotwell family's possession, the document in 2000 was purchased for \$200,000 by a boastful Connecticut antique collector and an ethically dubious business partner, both hoping to sell it for millions. How the parchment ended up back in North Carolina state archives is an intricate tale involving high-powered antique dealers, businessmen, historians, manuscript experts, auction houses, elite attorneys, governors of three states, the FBI, a U.S. Attorney's office, and Philadelphia's National Constitution Center. The tale pulsates with dynamic personalities greatly affected by their connection to one of the rarest, most influential and valuable documents in American history. Howard has produced a marvelously compelling read. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. David Howard's *Lost Rights* is an epic ride through American history, a colorful page-turner in which the hero is a 220-year-old piece of parchment coveted by an eccentric cast of fast-talking antiquarians and innocent patriots, nerdy record-keepers and special agents in a cinematic showdown. Howard goes deep, creating an astounding narrative weave that captures not just the strange journey of the Bill of Rights, but the modern-day country of hucksters and heroes it has wrought. A truly wonderful read! Michael Paterniti, author of *Driving Mr. Albert* "It would be difficult to find a more astonishing journey than the one David Howard traces in *LOST RIGHTS*. From a defeated and terrified Southern town at the end of the Civil War to a gleaming high rise in Philadelphia nearly 150 years later, Howard explains in riveting detail how one of our most treasured historical artifacts miraculously survived the avarice of men." Candice Millard, author of *The River of Doubt* "In this tour de force of antiquarian sleuthing, David Howard gamely follows a circuitous trail through distant centuries and rarefied subcultures. *LOST RIGHTS* not only entertains and enlightens us; it challenges our rockbed assumptions about what we think we have, and what we think we know." Hampton Sides, author of *Blood and Thunder* and *Ghost Soldiers* "*LOST RIGHTS* has it all: historic heist, hidden treasure, deception, skullduggery, lawyers, guns, money, cheap picture frames and one very valuable piece of parchment. David Howard's true-life tale of an original Bill of Rights stolen, lost, found and scammed reads like a thriller set backstage at Antiques Roadshow." Bruce Barcott, author of *The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw* "David Howard's *LOST RIGHTS* reveals and untangles a fascinating web of secrets and lies. At the story's heart lies nothing less than the best intentions and the worst impulses of all humanity. With his compelling narrative, larger-than-life characters, and sharp reporting, Howard lights the darkest corners of this twisted journey of one of America's most sacred relics." Susan Casey, author of *The Devil's Teeth* Here's a detective story of the ages, and for the ages. Dave

Howard's investigation is almost as remarkable as the story it uncovers! Bill McKibben, author *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* About the Author DAVID HOWARD is a freelance journalist and writer whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Travel+ Leisure*, *Backpacker*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, and other publications. He is the executive editor of *Bicycling*.