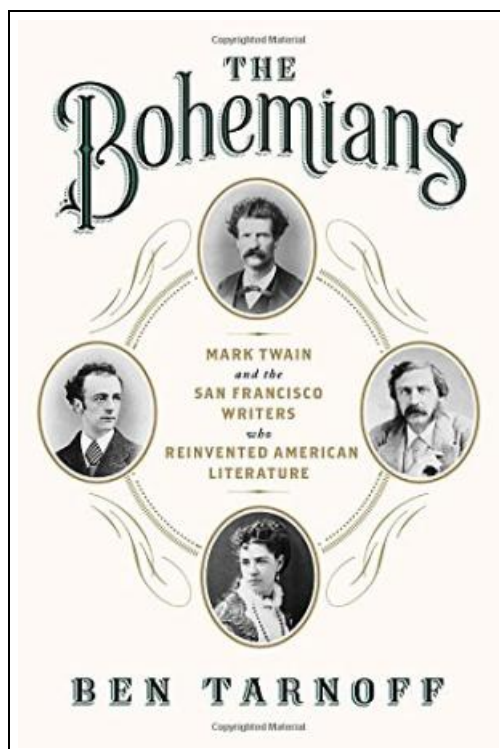


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THE BOHEMIANS: MARK TWAIN AND THE SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS WHO REINVENTED AMERICAN



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Penguin. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. 1860s San Francisco. The Gold Rush has ended, the Civil War threatens to tear apart the country, but this western city is booming. A global seaport, home to immigrants from five continents, San Francisco has become a complex urban society virtually overnight. Ben Tarnoff introduces us to bards of the moment, who called themselves the Bohemians: a young Mark Twain, fleeing the draft and seeking adventure; literary golden boy Bret Harte; struggling gay poet Charles Warren Stoddard; and beautiful, haunted Ina Coolbrith, poet and protectorate of the group. Tarnoff's elegant, atmospheric history reveals how these four would create a new American literature, unfettered by the heavy European influence that dominated the East."Tarnoff breathes fresh life into his narrative with vivid details from the archives . giving us a rich portrait of a lost world overflowing with new wealth and new talent. Stylish and fast-paced literary history."SFChronicle"Tarnoff's book sings with the humor and expansiveness of his subjects' prose, capturing the intoxicating atmosphere of possibility that defined, for a time, America's frontier."The New Yorker"California was always crawling with scribblers,' Tarnoff remarks, while San Francisco, a promising metropolis far from the horrors of the Civil War, engendered a 'thriving publishing culture' supported by voracious, opinionated readers. Four very different writers who just so happened to share 'contempt for custom' and a taste for satire ended up joining forces as the Bohemians: young, bold Mark Twain; Bret Harte, whose dandyish appearance belied courageous defiance (though he did hide his Jewish heritage); the vulnerable, lovable, and clandestinely gay Charles Warren Stoddard; and independent Ina Coolbrith, who concealed her family's Mormon connection and the horrors of her brief marriage. These creative, hardworking, under-stress literary Bohemians turned two journals, Golden Era and Overland Monthly, into nationally renowned forums for...



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