

History, sex, and Shakespeare:

Sarah Smith's literate, passionate thrillers get praise from critics and readers alike



"I want to tell historical thrillers where people are central, where the story is not just about 1912 or 1580 but about you, reading today," says Sarah Smith. And she succeeds. Critics here and abroad praise the vividness and immediacy of her stories and characters. The *New York Times* calls Sarah Smith "a seductive storyteller" who writes "lushly erotic" and "stunning" books. *Kirkus Reviews* calls *A Citizen of the Country* "a virtuosic fusion of speculative history...and intricately plotted rousing melodrama...A bloody triumph." Samuel R. Delany has called *Chasing Shakespeares* "the best novel about Shakespeare since Anthony Burgess's *Nothing Like the Sun*." Two of Sarah's historical mysteries, *The Vanished Child* and *The Knowledge of Water*, have been named *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year.

Sarah's books have been bought for publication in fourteen languages and in the United Kingdom, and have reached bestseller lists here and abroad. Her poems and stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies and have repeatedly appeared on "Best of the Year" lists.

Chasing Shakespeares (Atria Books/Simon & Schuster) takes her historical writing to a new level. A literary detective story on the model of *The Daughter of Time* and *Persuasion*, it tells the story of two graduate students who find a Shakespeare letter saying he didn't write the plays. Posy wants to tell the media *right now*; Joe is sure the letter's a forgery. And they have a week to find out what the letter is--and who they really are... To her intense delight, a poem Sarah found during the research for *Chasing Shakespeares* has been recognized as being by the "alternate Shakespeare," the Earl of Oxford: a major new piece of evidence in the Shakespeare authorship controversy. *Chasing Shakespeares* is now available in trade paperback with special material for book groups, from Washington Square Press/Simon & Schuster.

Sarah Smith has studied film and literature in London as a Fulbright scholar and in Paris on a Harvard fellowship, and has also held an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities. A graduate of Harvard University, where she received her B.A. and Ph.D. in English literature, she taught at Tufts for several years and teaches at writers' workshops and retreats, including Brown, the Hofstra Summer Writers' Institute, and Stonecoast.

She lives in Brookline, Massachusetts, with her family and two gray cats, where she is working on a ghost story and a new novel about *Titanic* survivors. Her Web site is www.sarahsmith.com.