

Sarah Smith

Chasing Shakespeares

A Novel

Some people are afraid Shakespeare didn't write Shakespeare's plays.

Joe's afraid he can prove it.

Hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for her "daring and splendid" novels, Sarah Smith delivers a story of sex, deception, and Shakespeare that cuts to the heart of literature's deepest mystery.

When two competitive graduate students discover a letter by "W. Shakespeare of Stratford" saying he didn't write the plays, it's a career-making discovery for luscious, red-haired Posy Gould, a rising star at Harvard and the glamorous daughter of a Hollywood producer. But to Joe Roper, hardheaded young Vermonter and passionate Shakespeare biographer, the letter's an obvious forgery. "Prove it," says Posy, and off they go to England, Posy chasing 'the real Shakespeare,' Joe trying to protect her and Shakespeare from each other.

But in England they find themselves dropped into a world where the London Eye looks out over Shakespeare's London, Hollywood producers rub elbows with Elizabethan spies, and mystery shadows the heart of Westminster Abbey and the lanes of rural England. Sex and power war with literature and genius; family secrets echo through

centuries. And Joe and Posy find that, when you start chasing Shakespeares, what you find may be yourself.

Already praised as “the definitive treatment of the Shakespeare authorship controversy,” *Chasing Shakespeares* combines the delights of literary detection with a page-turning novel of passion and ideas, like *Possession* in its elegant blend of mystery and literary history, like *The Daughter of Time* because the mystery is fascinatingly real.

Praise for Sarah Smith:

“Stunning...An exquisite stylist, she observes characters in the most intimate detail, defining them with witty precision...Lushly erotic.” -- *New York Times Book Review*

“Endlessly satisfying plot twists, historical verisimilitude, and character development...”

Detroit Free Press (four stars)

“Intellectual stimulation of the highest order...A ripping yarn with provocative and substantial things to say.” -- *Kirkus*

“Haunting...An accessible mix of historical speculation, literary allusion, and suspense...” -- *Entertainment Weekly*

Sarah Smith is the author of *The Vanished Child*, *The Knowledge of Water*—both *New York Times Book Review* Notable Books of the Year—and *A Citizen of the Country*. Her books are published in numerous languages and have reached bestseller status here and abroad. She received her Ph.D. in English from Harvard and as a Fulbright Scholar studied at the University of London. Visit her at www.sarahsmith.com.