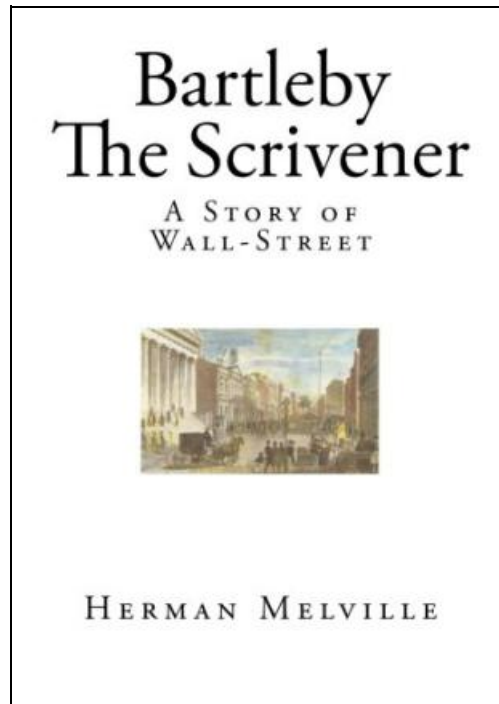


Bartleby - The Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street



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BARTLEBY - THE SCRIVENER: A STORY OF WALL-STREET



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 254 x 178 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street (1853) is a short story by the American writer Herman Melville, first serialized anonymously in two parts in the November and December editions of Putnam s Magazine, and reprinted with minor textual alterations in his The Piazza Tales in 1856. The story of the lawyer-narrator who cannot bring himself to remove from his office the silent scrivener (save for the repeated phrase I would prefer not to), who neither works nor eats, has always fascinated both readers and critics. Numerous essays are published on what according to scholar Robert Milder is unquestionably the masterpiece of the short fiction in the Melville canon. The narrator, an elderly, unnamed Manhattan lawyer with a very comfortable business, relates the story of the strangest man he has ever known: Bartleby. At the start of his chronicle, the lawyer already employs two scriveners to copy legal documents by hand: Nippers and Turkey. An increase in business leads him to advertise for a third, and he hires the forlorn-looking Bartleby in the hope that his calmness will soothe the irascible temperaments of the other two. At first, Bartleby produces a large volume of high-quality work. But one day, when asked to help proofread a document, Bartleby answers with what soon becomes his perpetual response to every request- I would prefer not to. To the dismay of the lawyer and to the irritation of the other employees, Bartleby performs fewer and fewer tasks, and eventually none. The narrator makes several futile attempts to reason with him and to learn something about him; and when he stops by the office unexpectedly, he discovers...

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