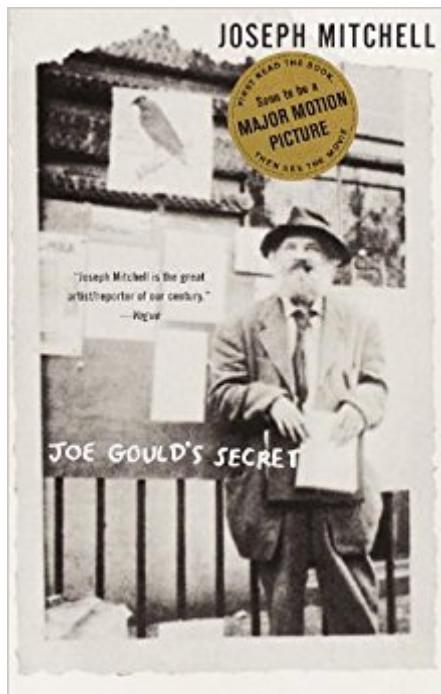


The book was found

# Joe Gould's Secret



## Synopsis

Joseph Mitchell was a legendary New Yorker writer and the author of the national bestseller *Up in the Old Hotel*, in which these two pieces appeared. What Joseph Mitchell wrote about, principally, was New York. In Joe Gould, Mitchell found the perfect subject. And Joe Gould's Secret has become a legendary piece of New York history. Joe Gould may have been the quintessential Greenwich Village bohemian. In 1916, he left behind patrician roots for a scrappy, hand-to-mouth existence: he wore ragtag clothes, slept in Bowery flophouses, and mooched food, drinks, and money off of friends and strangers. Thus he was able to devote his energies to writing "An Oral History of Our Time," which Gould said would constitute "the informal history of the shirt-sleeved multitude." But when Joe Gould died in 1957, the manuscript could not be found. Where had he hidden it? This is Joe Gould's Secret.  *"[M]itchell is] one of our finest journalists."*--Dawn Powell, *The Washington Post*  *"What people say is history--Joe Gould was right about that--and history, when recorded by Mitchell, is literature."*--*The New Criterion*

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is an original. I can think of absolutely nothing like it."--Doris Lessing "A little masterpiece of observation and storytelling."--Ian McEwan "Joseph Mitchell is one of our finest journalists, unique in his compassion and understanding for the haunted little lost men such as Joe Gould. He transforms a forlorn, intolerably pathetic gentleman panhandler into an engaging, Dickensian orphan rogue."--Dawn Powell, *The Washington Post* (1965) --This text refers to an out of print or

unavailable edition of this title.

Now a major motion picture starring Ian Holm, Hope Davis, and Stanley Tucci, who also directs. Joseph Mitchell was a legendary New Yorker writer and the author of the national bestseller *Up in the Old Hotel*, in which these two pieces appeared. What Joseph Mitchell wrote about, principally, was New York. In Joe Gould, Mitchell found the perfect subject. And Joe Gould's Secret has become a legendary piece of New York history. Joe Gould may have been the quintessential Greenwich Village bohemian. In 1916, he left behind patrician roots for a scrappy, hand-to-mouth existence: he wore ragtag clothes, slept in Bowery flophouses, and mooched food, drinks, and money off of friends and strangers. Thus he was able to devote his energies to writing "An Oral History of Our Time," which Gould said would constitute "the informal history of the shirt-sleeved multitude." But when Joe Gould died in 1957, the manuscript could not be found. Where had he hidden it? This is Joe Gould's Secret. "[Mitchell is] one of our finest journalists."--Dawn Powell, "The Washington Post" "What people say is history--Joe Gould was right about that-- and history, when recorded by Mitchell, is literature."--"The New Criterion

The book paints a vivid picture of New York City and One of its stranger characters. Based on a series of interviews, the author tells a fascinating story of a man who lives on the streets and gets by on very little for his entire life. He tells the story of the author of an oral history of the world; a book that will sit in the great libraries in the future. The sense of place and time, the 1920s to the 1950s, is amazing. You can see how catsup can be a meal and how you can live on hand handouts from day to Day and have a plastic bag full of cigarette butts means you always have a smoke when you need it.

Mitchell is a great writer; I have read his other books. Joe Gould is a veryinteresting character and it was a pleasure to read about him. I had read some of Mitchell's writings about Gould but not the whole story.

Fascinating account of time spent with Joe Gould, a bohemian who claimed to be writing a landmark study in New York. Joseph Mitchell's style is fresh and pointed.

The story of an anti-hero who lived precariously in New York to let what he calls a work of gigantic literary value, but really a mumble jumble that Joyce and Celine had already written. Superbly

written by Mitchell magnificently entertaining. Who said that Joe Gould's life, a drunkun smelly insect really, was not interesting?

Very interesting and memorable account of a unusual man's life.

Having seen the movie before reading the book, I wasn't sure what to expect. I'm happy to report that the movie had been totally faithful to the book. Joseph Mitchell's writing style is eminently readable and pulls one along effortlessly. Joseph Gould likely suffered from a mental illness, which would have gone undiagnosed in the 1920s-1940s. Mitchell's writing presents the subject in a sympathetic light, despite also showing Gould's negative traits. Mitchell shares his eventual exasperation with the reader, alternating between that and genuine sympathy for Gould. Highly recommended! Longer character studies may exist, but none better.

Exceptionally well-written, but I found the secret disappointing, especially as it was exactly what I expected.

Enjoyed this book.

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