

Elizabeth Coxe, Publicist | T: 646.307.5563 | elizabeth.coxe@stmartins.com
Vicki Lame, Publicity Assistant | T: 646.307.5553 | vicki.lame@stmartins.com

PUBLICATION DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2005

"Mercer portrays the assorted characters and their adventures with an eye for detail and a wry sense of humor. Francophile book lovers will enjoy his finely crafted memoir."

--PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"Mercer is a genial, wide-eyed guide to the wild crew at the store... catnip for book junkies."

--KIRKUS REVIEWS

"Mercer's debut in Europe is a fascinating odyssey into a historic bookstore."

--PUBLISHING NEWS (UK)

TIME WAS SOFT THERE

A PARIS SOJOURN AT SHAKESPEARE & CO.

Jeremy Mercer

Under threat and with his meager savings in hand, crime reporter **JEREMY MERCER** fled Canada to Paris in 1999. Broke and on the cusp of homelessness, **MERCER** found himself invited to a tea party amongst the riff raff of the Parisian fantasy that is Shakespeare & Co. Lost in his very own version of *Alice in Wonderland*, Mercer falls down the rabbit hole to a life of camaraderie in the famous bookstore, becoming proprietor George Whitman's confidant and right-hand man, trading free labor for an unforgettable experience. The ultimate story of bohemian Paris, this charming world is filled with unique characters like the eccentric British poet, Simon, the beautiful blonde, Pia, and Whitman, who holds the key to it all.

TIME WAS SOFT THERE: A PARIS SOJOURN AT SHAKESPEARE & CO. (St. Martin's Press; November 2005; ISBN: 0-312-34739-1; \$23.95 hardcover) winds in and around the City of Lights as the staff fall in and out of love, get drunk off of wine and each other, sell a few books, and help Whitman find a way to keep the endangered bookstore open.

JEREMY MERCER was formerly a journalist for the *Ottawa Citizen*. He is the author of two crime books and a founder of *Kilometer Zero*, an art collective and eponymous magazine conceived at Shakespeare & Co.

TIME WAS SOFT THERE is part memoir, part travelogue, and part biography of Shakespeare & Co.'s legendary owner, George Whitman.