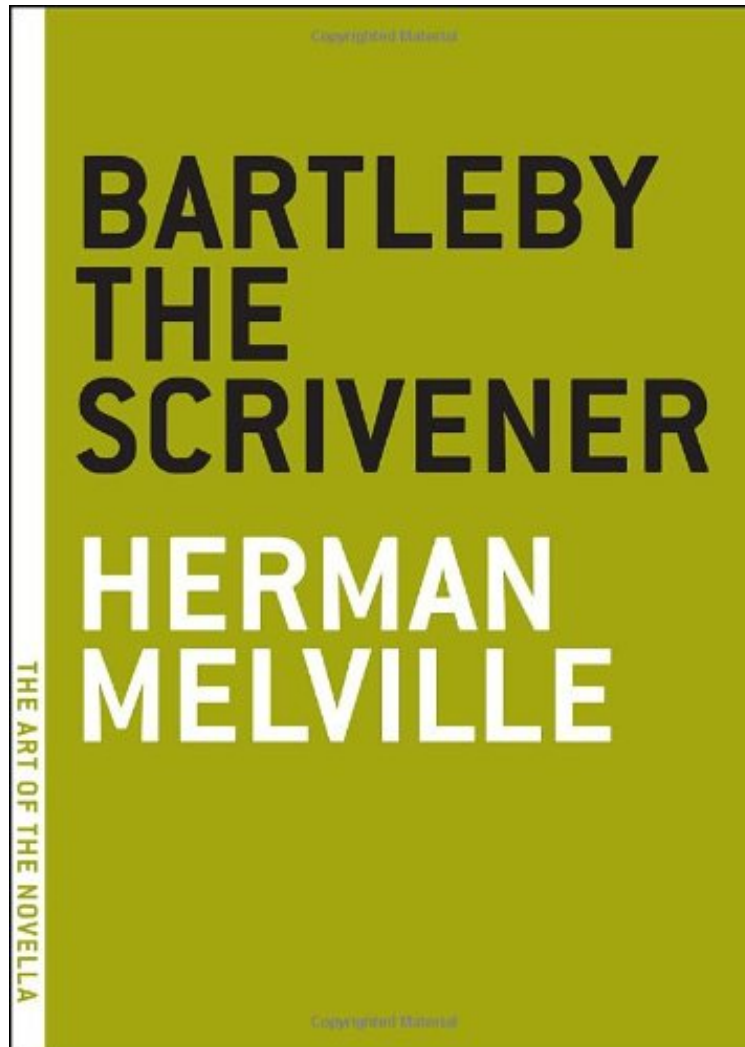


(Free and download) Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street (The Art of the Novella series)

## **Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street (The Art of the Novella series)**

*Herman Melville*

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**Herman Melville : Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street (The Art of the Novella series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street (The Art of the Novella series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another view of the man is isn't thereBy PhredHerman Melville's Bartleby the Scrivener is something of a seduction. It is either a long short story or a short novella. 64 pages in my lovely Art of the Novella edition. This is among the last works of Melville and is considered as the first work in the emerging style known as naturalism. It may be but it is certainly gentle and initially light hearted in its tone.It is this

light heartedness that makes it seductive. We are introduced to an almost Dickensian office of scribes. Here the staff spends every working day writing out in long hand, exact duplicates of legal documents, arguments and depositions. Every page must be word for word correct and with the least tolerance for blots. The owner and narrator runs his team with a light hand. Think of a less gregarious version of Mr. Fezziwig from *A Christmas Carol* or Samuel Pickwick of the *Pickwick Papers*. The owner/narrator has a high tolerance for personal quirks and a tendency among the staff to fuel up on alcohol during meal times. Into this mix come Bartleby. The man who prefers, not to. Every effort is made to adjust to his idiosyncrasies, but each adjustment takes the story into a darker place and tests his employer's tolerance for a man who eventually ceases to have any functions except to be there. The usual case for Bartleby is that he is the man who refuses to fit in. The man who simply says "I prefer not to". This analyses than turns to the rest of us and asks if we can call ourselves human or humane if we cannot find a space for the person who offers nothing? The question is valid, the example is flawed. As the story progresses Bartleby is granted a great deal. Changes are made to his benefit and his reply is to assume as his right that more will be given. There is always something else that he "prefers not to." To me the question of Bartleby is one of how to best serve his mental health issues. Something poorly recognized and most often grossly mishandled in Melville's time and defining the literary point at which Bartleby achieves the perfect negative state of "preferring not to".

51 of 52 people found the following review helpful. Complete text of Melville's humorous and moving novella on humanity By D. Summerfield This review is for the free Kindle edition of this novella. The novella is available for purchase in several book formats, some of which contain excellent critical essays on this important American author and his work. This Kindle edition contains only the text of the novella, but it is free and that's great. "Bartleby the Scrivener" is a very accessible short novella by the author of "Moby Dick." It tells the story of a strange young man named Bartleby who shows up one morning at a New York law firm and is employed as a copyist (scrivener.) In those days (mid-nineteenth century), legal work was horrendously tedious for the clerks since huge briefs and depositions had to be copied by hand by men who did nothing all day but write a clear hand (and try not to leave ink blots on the paper,) and then check their work by reading it aloud back to each other. This is one of my favorite novellas (really a long short story). Wittily narrated by the harassed lawyer who owns the law firm, it describes the characters of those copyists who are employed there, and tells of the strange Bartleby who just decides to stop doing any work one day, telling his exasperated employer that he "prefers not to." The story is a wonderful mixture of high comedy, pathos and fascinating commentary on the human condition. I re-read it at least once a year, and I always enjoy it and get something fresh from Melville's wise insights and his wonderful wit. Highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A True Classic By Deborah A. Bowman, author I am a true lover and collector of classic literature, but somehow this is my first opportunity to read Melville. Bartleby is an odd little story about an odd scavenger that stays with you long after the pages have all been turned.

"I prefer not to," he respectfully and slowly said, and mildly disappeared. Academics hail it as the beginning of modernism, but to readers around the world—even those daunted by *Moby-Dick*—Bartleby the Scrivener is simply one of the most absorbing and moving novellas ever. Set in the mid-19th century on New York City's Wall Street, it was also, perhaps, Herman Melville's most prescient story: what if a young man caught up in the rat race of commerce finally just said, "I would prefer not to"?

The tale is one of the final works of fiction published by Melville before, slipping into despair over the continuing critical dismissal of his work after *Moby-Dick*, he abandoned publishing fiction. The work is presented here exactly as it was originally published in Putnam's magazine—to, sadly, critical disdain. The Art of The Novella Series Too short to be a novel, too long to be a short story, the novella is generally unrecognized by academics and publishers. Nonetheless, it is a form beloved and practiced by literature's greatest writers. In the Art Of The Novella series, Melville House celebrates this renegade art form and its practitioners with titles that are, in many instances, presented in book form for the first time.