You Can’t Judge a Book by Its Cover…
But Can You Judge a Book by Its First Line?

I had this story from one who had no business to tell it to me, or to any other.

Answer the following questions, basing your answer on the sentence above.

1. What do you think this book is likely to be about? What led you to this prediction?
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

2. What kind of book do you expect it will be (a mystery, a romance…)?
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

3. What is the book’s setting (contemporary or historical, city or country, etc.)?
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

4. Who are the book’s characters likely to be?
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

5. Do you think you would be interested in reading this book? Why or why not?
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

6. Use your research skills to determine the title and author of the book from which this first line was taken:
   TITLE ________________________________
   AUTHOR ________________________________

©2004abcteach.com
You Can’t Judge a Book by Its Cover…
But Can You Judge a Book by Its First Line?

I had this story from one who had no business to tell it to me, or to any other.

Now you can be the author. Write a short story, using the first line above as your starting point.