



The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion

Stewart P. Evans , Keith Skinner (Editor)

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This singular encyclopedic work offers the ultimate in Ripper resources. Solidly researched and profusely illustrated, collated from all the known official records and supplemented by contemporary press reports, it presents for the first time, in one volume, a prime-source reference book on the eleven shocking prostitute murders that took place in the East End of London between 1888 and 1891. While there is no doubt that the Whitechapel Murders, as they were classified by Scotland Yard, were committed by more than one person, no one knows how many of the killings can be attributed to a single culprit. More than one murderer wore the guise of Jack the Ripper, and the certain identities of all suspects to this day remain unknown. Divorcing the facts of the Ripper case from the myths that have proliferated in myriad books and film, this painstakingly compiled sourcebook offers a factual, documented narrative of the entire series of crimes, their forensic evidence, the official suspects and possible accomplices, police reports, and inquests. Any historian or crime fan researching the world's most notorious serial murders, as well as general readers interested in the true facts of the case, will find this book as invaluable as it is affordable.

The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion Details

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From Reader Review The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion for online ebook

Bernard Schaffer says

As with the other two, I relied on this book heavily in researching WHITECHAPEL: THE FINAL STAND OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. I'm in Stewart's debt.

Emma-jane says

Love it!~

Shawn Martin says

The book clears up a few misconceptions regarding the evidence surrounding the murders and stereotypes of Victorian England. It is a great reference for debating whether the Ripper took five victims or more.

I used this book for research on a novel I am currently writing, and it proved to be very helpful. Not to mention it is just a fascinating compilation of everything related to the case.

Katarina Forss says

Not so ultimate.

Thomas Amo says

Own hardbound edition...will review later.

Amy says

I'm not exactly sure what I was expecting, but this was really insightful and detailed. Incredibly interesting, but slow.

Colin says

Huge book of primary source material including newspaper articles, police reports and court proceedings.

Surprisingly atmospheric and evocative.

Chiara says

Note to the potential reader: it is a Compendium, and as such, you should not expect to enjoy it if it's your first book ever regarding the Ripper Case. All the amateur Ripperologists out there MUST own this book. All the available information from the newspapers to the autopsy files, is to be found in this massive, exhaustive, amazing book.

Andrew says

For my money, the best book on the case yet put together. First off, it's massive. Second off, it contains only the police files with no extraneous "theories" that have been put together over a century after the events. First it contains some set-up of the times: records of labor riots, gang activity, etc. Following, we get into the Whitechapel Murders - not just the "canonical five" (Polly Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes and Mary Kelly) but the 10+ disputed cases as well. Last is a round-up of the theories the police were throwing around. There's some interesting coincidences in the files, too.

S.L. Saboviec says

Need details about Jack the Ripper? Find 'em here.

Shaun says

If you want access to all the correspondence/reporting/available case files of the Ripper killings then you are likely to enjoy this 700 page behemoth of a book.

The problem is that much of what is provided is repetitive to the point of bordering on tedious.

This is not light reading...and it's certainly not enjoyable and probably why it has taken me the better part of 3 weeks to get through it. That said, I did learn more about the Ripper killings.

Some tidbits:

1. There is very little agreement at the time and still remains controversy today regarding which victims were actually killed by Jack.
2. At the time, many people believed the killer to be a lunatic because who else could commit such atrocities. The problem is we now know that serial killers often blend in and don't appear outwardly disturbed.
3. It was interesting to see how many people wanted to blame the killings on a foreigner, which I think is not unusual even today, but that is probably not the case. It is very likely that Jack lived among them and was one of them.

4. Others felt that Jack was making a statement against prostitution or exacting revenge for contracting some disease from a whore. And it's certainly possible. It's just as likely, though, that he targeted prostitutes because they were easy victims. One inspector pointed out, "What makes it so easy for him is that the women lead him, of their own free will, to wait for his chance they make the chance for him. And then they are so miserable and so hopeless, so utterly lost to all that makes a person want to live, that for the sake of fourpence, enough to get drunk on, they will go in any man's company, and run the risk that it is not him." Basically, they were easy prey.

5. Still others blamed secret political organizations and terrorists. A few entertained the possibility that the killer was a woman.

6. Whatever the case, local police departments and Scotland Yard were inundated with accusations and even confessions from the public at large. Sifting through all the evidence and supposed leads was a monumental task.

7. I think what was particularly disturbing to many besides the heinous nature of the murders themselves was the fact that many of the crimes seemingly took place out in the open. Victims were often found still warm on a policeman's beat in areas where foot traffic was not uncommon.

Had this book been better organized (or differently organized) and had the author seen fit to exclude redundant material, I would have enjoyed this more. I would also have appreciated a summary of each victim as a point of reference. After a while it becomes hard to keep all the victims and the supposed theories around their deaths straight. There is a very short appendix in the back which chronicles events, but I wanted/needed more.

Paul Barton says

Another exceptionally detailed encyclopaedia of Ripper facts, reports, police documents and photographs. Along with Sugden this is essential textbook reading.

Lauren says

It is definitely an encyclopedia. Not for those with just a passing interest in Jack the Ripper. Great use of source materials ... Excellent pictures. Perfect for those wanting to do research on Jack the Ripper.

shreyo says

interesting

Riju Ganguly says

It is indeed rarest of rare to find a book that is perfectly true in terms of its name, and this book falls under that "category" (are there any other books in that class?). It is truly ultimate as a source-book for the "Jack

the Ripper" killing that terrorised London and keeps on horrifying us after all these years. Every year we come across new "theories" propounded either by the Ripperologists, or by rank amateurs trying to cash on our queries. But this book remains true and authentic. If at any point in my life I consider myself qualified enough to uplift myself to the rank of a Ripperologist rather than being the curious folk (as at present), I will make a thorough study of everything in this book. Until then, I can merely recommend: "please get hold of a copy of this book by any means".
