



Jack the Ripper

Mark Whitehead , Miriam Rivett

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As well as an introductory essay, this text considers many of the Ripper's proposed identities, a summary of his crimes, victims and the ill-fated investigation, plus a guide to the Ripper's many fictional outings.

Jack the Ripper Details

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From Reader Review Jack the Ripper for online ebook

noelle says

i wasn't really into this until i got to the hilariously irascible end where jack's media presence was discussed. why did no one else like this??

If you've ever wondered what a horror movie made by a bunch of goths would look like, then I Am the Ripper (2004) might give you an idea. An amateur French cast get killed, come back to life, and get killed again by a hooded figure who may be Death or possibly Skeletor. Exactly how Jack fits into the story may be just the result of an opportunistic retitling for this incomprehensible mess. At one point someone does appear wearing a top hat and a cape but by then our brains had shut down our retinas as a precautionary measure and we knew no more.

The increasingly cadaverous Jurgen Prochnow appears as a red herring. Not literally, you understand.

His romance with Heather Graham's Mary Kelly (**apparently voiced by Dick Van Dyke**) leads up to one of the most jaw-droppingly cynical deus ex machina ever foisted on the movie-going public.

who knew i could find comedy gold in a book about jack the ripper? i kept snickering to myself at the gym, tbqh

Andrea Hickman Walker says

Rather pedestrian, but a good overview nonetheless. Includes a far wider range of suspects than is usually the case, and is worth reading just for that. Also contains a list of sources at the end that would provide a good place to start further reading.

Nuska says

"Jack was born just as the popular press was finding its feet and they helped each other inmeasurably. He gave them murders to boost their circulation and they, in turn, made him into a legend. No detail was too titillating or unpleasant to be left unreported or undistorted" (9).

"The only character who doesn't seem to have tracked the Ripper [in Sherlock Holmes] is Mrs. Hudson". (82).

"He [the Ripper] has met Doctor Who's Doctor on at least two occasions: 'The Pit' (1993) and 'Matrix' (1998)". (82).

This book is a good compilation of all important things related with Jack the Ripper's case. I'm not much into true crime stories but, as part of popular knowledge, I find the Ripper particularly interesting. There are a lot of things written about this case but this book is useful to have a quite complete overview.

Aoife says

Like The Mammoth Book of Jack the Ripper this book starts by giving the bare facts of the Ripper-crimes and then offers an overview of some more-or-less serious theories about the identity of Jack the Ripper and the little-and-less serious fictional accounts dealing with him. The difference between those two books is the *The Pocket Essential* is shorter (mainly because it's not an anthology where various authors offering their opinions but just one author summing up the main points and commenting on it), better written (so much better) and...*funnier*. Not the first part about the facts, which is quite dry (as it should be) but when it comes to the theories the author already clearly states when he thinks one is rubbish (You didn't have to be famous to be considered a Ripper-suspect but it surely helps) and especially the way he rips apart Patricia Cornwells theories is just delightful. However that is nothing compared to the way he comments on books and movies inspired by Jack the Ripper. I did laugh out loud a couple of times reading that part:

The Ripper became the crime and horror writer's equivalent of the dread 'dead pet/living pet' story in sitcoms: something reliable that you could turn to in times of creative hardship.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the countless crime titles in which a serial killer either kills in the same style as the Ripper or is gifted a similar nickname

If you've ever wondered what a horror movie made by a bunch of goths would look like, then *I Am the Ripper* (2004) might give you an idea. An amateur French cast get killed, come back to life, and get killed again by a hooded figure who may be Death or possibly Skeletor. Exactly how Jack fits into the story may be just the result of an opportunistic retitling for this incomprehensible mess. At one point someone does appear wearing a top hat and a cape but by then our brains had shut down our retinas as a precautionary measure and we knew no more.

And if Holmes' solutions aren't satisfactory then there have always been others to have a go. Mycroft Holmes, Professor Moriarty, Inspector Lestrade, Irene Adler and even Holmes' 'sister', Charlotte, have all had their own Ripper-hunting stories told. In fact, the only character who doesn't seem to have tracked the Ripper is Mrs Hudson... Now why would that be? Surely not...

I could go on and on about this and basically quote the final third of the book because it's so hilarious (while always taking care only to make fun of crazy people having crazy ideas about Jack the Ripper but not him/his victims or the crimes itself). So overall it does give a good starting-point if you want to know more about Jack the Ripper. The only disadvantage it has to *The Mammoth book*...is that you have to take

Whitehead's word on the ridiculousness of the theories, while in the other books the various Ripperologists are given the possibility to make a fool of themselves all on their own. I still think that I prefer this one as the writing-style does not make me want to scrap my brains out (yeah...and also because of the snark).

Andrew says

Great easy read

Erika says

An informative compound of hypothesis and possible suspects about the Whitechapel murders and information about the victims' background. The book narrates how the case unfolded and which authorities got involved and what measures were taken to try to capture The Ripper. There's also a section about media references of Jack the Ripper, which I found interesting. It's a nice reference book and a good introduction for anyone interested in learning about Jack the Ripper's case.

Kerry says

I'm going to be honest, I like many people have a bit of an obsession for crime books, true crime especially and of course Jack the Ripper. The reason for this of course is that we are all brought up with the story of jack from our pre-school years and beyond, this is because ultimately the ripper escaped and committed what could be defined as the perfect crime. I have read numerous books about the Ripper and I have to say that I am going to stop after this one. Not that it is badly written or not informative just basically because they are all the same. The truth is we are never going to know for certain the identity of the ripper and I suppose that is the beauty of the myth and why people continue to search yet fail to find any answers in the books they read.

DeshojandoLibros says

Éste libro, por explicarlo de alguna manera, es como si fuera un documental, es decir, NO ES UNA NOVELA, es una recopilación de todos los datos que lograron juntar sobre las víctimas (quiénes eran, acerca de su vida, y cómo las mataron); y sobre los sospechosos (quiénes eran, por qué encajaban con el perfil, y cómo quedaron libres de sospecha).

Calificación: 4/5 - Lo quiero en mi biblioteca.

Reseña completa y algunas otras sugerencias de lectura relacionadas con el tema aquí

- Lady bookie

(shan) Littlebookcove says

Jack the ripper This was a book I picked up at my local library that I've wanted to read it for some time. But never got around to it, so I put it down for reserve. There's a whole mystery to jack the Ripper. If your a cockney or from London it's likely you will know the case inside out. As it was one of those cases that made the history of every Londoner's heart. Of how Jack killed those poor ladies of the night and walked into the mists of London never to be seen again.Throughout History loads of detectives even the FBI did a character profile on him. But you ask any cockney and they will tell you even to this Day, Those murders wasn't all jack he didn't do them all! There was a copycat that wanted in on his fame.This book cuts to the chase full up fact's of how and when the crime happened. An enjoyable read with references at the back of the book, in case you want to do your own investigation, it also states on the back the suspects and their history and how they fell into the case. There's even talk it could of being the elephant Man but that's not in the book :0)

stormhawk says

Okay little book about the Ripper murders, guess over the basic facts, the myths and mistakes (which are quite plentiful), the suspects, and gives a bit if a flavor of Victorian East End London. much of the last section is a catalog of fiction and non-fiction books, appearances in popular culture, and websites, although it's a bit strange to hear the audiobook reader chirping out ISBNs and full URLs.

Tracy Phillips says

Good concise information about the Jack the Ripper case. The book got tedious in spots when going through the various suspects and such as well as Jack the Ripper material ,such as books, films, TV shows, websites ETC.

Bonnie Walker says

This was not a favorite of mine. A lot of the book was him discussing other authors' books and then proceeding to say why they are wrong. He never really has a theory of his own, just that there is a lot of wrong answers out there. I do agree with him that the answer will probably never be known but for a pretty short book it took me quite a while to get through.

K.A. Krisko says

I "read" this as an audio-book, out of curiosity for the format - I should have read it the traditional way, as I seem to retain more information that way. This was my first "Ripper" book, and I was impressed with the apparent depth of the investigations; I'd previously thought the crimes were generally passed off due to the social status of the victims. This book is divided into sections: the murders themselves, the victims and

possible victims, the suspects, and a reader's bibliography. It draws no conclusions, and pretty much mocks any conclusions that have been drawn by others over the years. I enjoyed some of the tongue-in-cheek wit, but at other times it was a bit condescending (though that may be the fault of the narrator). I appreciated the bibliography, as it's given me a direction to go if I decide I want to read more in this, er, vein. I'd recommend this as a starter guide for those interested in the Ripper murders.

Atenea says

Una buena introducción a la historia de uno de los asesinos seriales más famosos de la historia. Quizá una guía bastante básica, pero de buena utilidad para aquellos que de Jack, solo conocen el nombre y que era un asesino.

Amy Sturgis says

This is just what I was expecting and wishing: a quick-and-dirty primer not only of the historical Jack the Ripper murders, but also of the victims (both "canonical" and possibly related), the different suspects over the years, the various theories/arguments and the seminal works that originally introduced them, and the depictions of Jack the Ripper in fiction, film, and television. This is merely a starting point, a general introduction, but I was impressed by the organization and breadth of the information presented. I especially appreciated the mini-reviews offered in the final section on the fictional Ripper in popular media.
