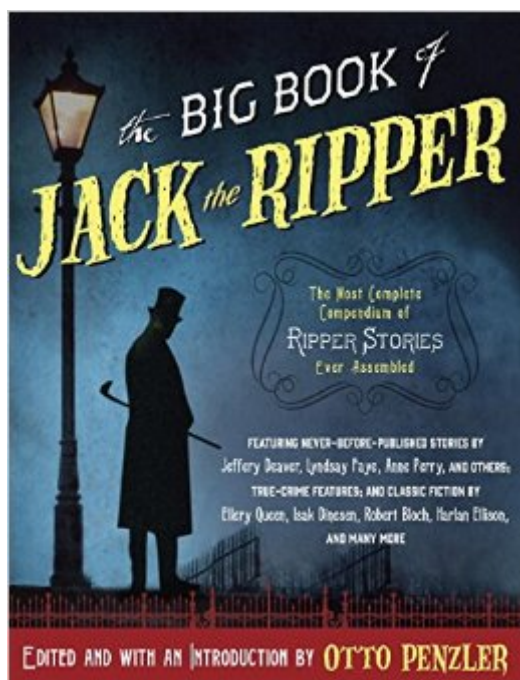


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The Big Book Of Jack The Ripper



Synopsis

A new anthology from Edgar Award-winning editor Otto Penzler, centered around the historical enigma whose name has become synonymous with fear: Jack the Ripper. Of all the real-life serial killers whose gruesome deeds have splashed across headlines throughout human history, few have reached the near-mythical status of Jack the Ripper. Terrorizing the world with a rash of violent murders in London's East End in the fall of 1888, Saucy Jack seemed to vanish just as quickly, leaving future generations to speculate upon the Ripper's identity and whereabouts and living on in some of the most spectacularly unnerving fiction and nonfiction ever written. Collected here, for the first time ever, are 41 tales featuring the infamous slasher, from classics by Marie Belloc-Lowndes, Robert Bloch, and Ellery Queen to never-before-seen stories by contemporary masters Jeffery Deaver, Loren D. Estleman, Lyndsay Faye, and many more. Also featured in this volume are essential true-crime artifacts of Jack the Ripper lore, including genuine witness statements, autopsy reports, contemporary news articles, and astonishing theories from the world's foremost Ripperologists as is only proper for a case that is truly as chilling as fiction.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Otto Penzler's book of "Jack the Ripper" has both factual and fictional accounts. The first part of the book includes the true story with an introduction by Otto Pensler. Articles include "Victims of the Night" by David Abrahamsen; "The Jack the Ripper Murders;" "Key Texts with witness statements, autopsy reports, and The Ripper Letters," edited by Maxim Jakubowski and Nathan Bounds;

"London's Ghastly Mystery; "The East End Murders: Detailed Lessons; "Blood Money to Whitechapel" by George Bernard Shaw; "Who Was Jack the Ripper?," by Peter Underwood; "Mystery Solved!;" "Frenchy"--Ammer Ben Ali," By Edwin M. Borchard; "Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Quick," by Stephen Hunter; and "Copy Murders and Others" by Robin Udell. I will write that my preference is with the non-fiction information about Jack the Ripper, his identity and the five murders. I read the above articles with attention and concentration. The second part of the book is entitled "Mystery, Crime, Suspense--Stories," with historical fictional account by others about Jack The Ripper murders.

Yes, it's a big book, 864 pages, 11 non-fiction pieces and 41 pieces of fiction, and there's no way I'm going to mention every single entry. (And, while it's just barely manageable in print form and nicely laid out in double columns, you may want to spare your wrists the effort and go for the kindle edition. There are no illustrations.) This book should satisfy everyone interested in the Ripper killings. The non-fiction pieces provide the context and introduction to the historical murders. Obsessive collectors on Ripper material will find new Ripper material here. The first 136 pages are taken up with the historical details of the Ripper murders and the wake he left in criminology. David Abrahamsen's "Victims in the Night" (1992) lays out the squalor of London's East End where the canonical five murders occurred, the shared traits of four of the victims (separated from husbands, in their forties, mothers, and a history of alcoholism), and the organizational problems that hampered investigations into the crimes. Maxim Jakubowski and Nathan Braund present "Key Texts" (1999) "witness statements and autopsy reports" which serve as a useful check on how historians and fiction writers in the rest of the book present the murders. "The Jack the Ripper Murders" (1947) collects contemporary newspaper coverage from The Times. Peter Underwood's "Who Was Jack the Ripper?" (1987) is a nice summary of the case for and against numerous suspects put forth over the years including some likely hoaxes. Original to the book is Stephen Hunter's intriguing "Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Quick". Opening with remarkable candor "Who was Jack the Ripper? I don't know. Nobody knows.

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