



Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed

By Patricia Cornwell

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Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed By Patricia Cornwell

The number-one *New York Times*-bestselling novelist Patricia Cornwell is known the world over for her brilliant storytelling, the courage of her characters, and the state-of-the-art forensic methods they employ.

In this headline-making new work of nonfiction, Cornwell turns her trademark skills for meticulous research and scientific expertise on one of the most chilling cases of serial murder in the history of crime—the slayings of Jack the Ripper that terrorized 1880s London. With the masterful intuition into the criminal mind that has informed her novels, Cornwell digs deeper into the case than any detective before her—and reveals the true identity of this elusive madman.

Enlisting the help of forensic experts, Cornwell examines all the physical evidence available: thousands of documents and reports, fingerprints, crime-scene photographs, original etchings and paintings, items of clothing, artists' paraphernalia, and traces of DNA. Her unavoidable conclusion: Jack the Ripper was none other than a respected painter of his day, an artist now collected by some of the world's finest museums.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Jack the Ripper was renowned artist Walter Sickert (1860-1942) according to Cornwell, in case anyone hasn't yet heard. The evidence Cornwell accumulates toward that conclusion in this brilliant, personal, gripping book is very strong, and will persuade many. In May 2001, Cornwell took a tour of Scotland Yard that interested her in the Ripper case, and in Sickert as a suspect. A look at Sickert's "violent" paintings sealed her interest, and she became determined to apply, for the first time ever, modern investigatory and forensic techniques to the crimes that horrified London more than 100 years ago. The book's narrative is complex, as Cornwell details her emotional involvement in the case; re-creates life in Victorian times, particularly in the late 1880s, and especially the cruel existence of the London poor; offers expertly observed scenarios of how, based on the evidence, the killings occurred and the subsequent investigations were conducted; explains what was found by the team of experts she hired; and gives a psycho-biography of Sickert. The book is filled with newsworthy revelations, including the successful use of DNA analysis to establish a link between an envelope mailed by the Ripper and two envelopes used by Sickert. There are also powerful comparisons made between Sickert's drawing style and that of the Ripper; between words and turns of phrases used by both men; and much other circumstantial evidence. Also newsworthy is Cornwell's conclusion that Sickert continued to kill long after the Ripper supposedly lay down his blade, reaping dozens of victims over his long life. Compassionate, intense, superbly argued, fluidly written and impossible to put down, this is the finest and most important true-crime book to date of the 21st century. Main selection of the BOMC, Literary Guild, Mystery Guild and Doubleday Book Club.
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From Library Journal

Can truth be stranger than Cornwell's fiction? Here, the best-selling novelist claims to uncover the identity of Jack the Ripper.
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From [Booklist](#)

This is one of the most talked about books of the current publishing season; if you have not heard about it yet, you have not been keeping up with book news! Cornwell, author of the popular Kay Scarpetta mystery series, turns her hand here to nonfiction to explore a subject that recently has thoroughly riveted her attention: none other than the ultimate in unsolved serial murder cases, that of Jack the Ripper. Readers will remember that the Ripper plunged London's East End into abject terror for a few months in 1888, during which time he brutally murdered several prostitutes. Cornwell applied modern investigative and forensic techniques to answer the question of the Ripper's identity, hardly leaving a single stone unturned in gathering evidence, which she presents in this absolutely absorbing book. Who was Jack the Ripper, then? Cornwell points her finger at Impressionist painter Walter Richard Sickert, and her indictment rests on, among other things, DNA testing and matching watermarks on envelopes. She adeptly sets the whole horrifying story within the tenor of life in Victorian England, and the result is a well-constructed, endlessly fascinating account that is sure not only to arouse debate but also to generate considerable demand in the library. *Brad Hooper*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Paolucci:

Why? Because this Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Melvin Bragg:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you is Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper--Case Closed this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some research when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

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