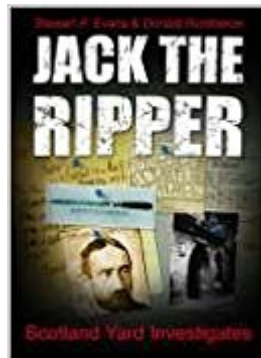


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Jack The Ripper: Scotland Yard Investigates



Synopsis

Drawing on their unparalleled knowledge of the Jack the Ripper murders and their professional experience as police officers, the two doyens of serious Ripper writing join forces for the first time to write the definitive book on the case from the perspective of the police investigation. As the title declares, this is the complete investigation and is full of new insights and information on the murders and who might have committed them. The authors reopen every aspect of the case and offer a balanced account that does not favor any one suspect or motive. By viewing the case through the lens of police procedure, they have uncovered clues and links that have remained undetected for more than a hundred years. Evans and Rumbelow also extend the investigation beyond the 'canonical' five victims and add other murders investigated at the same time that bring the total to twelve. This study strips away much of the nonsense that has accumulated since 1888 and draws the reader into the world of police investigation in Victorian London, reopening files on a case that will perhaps never be solved, but will always fascinate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stewart Evans is a leading crime historian and is widely considered one of the foremost specialists on Jack the Ripper. A former police officer, his previous books include Jack the Ripper: Letters from Hell, and Executioner. Donald Rumbelow, a former police officer whose beat included Mitre Square, scene of the fourth Ripper murder, is the author of The Complete Jack the Ripper. He also gives weekly Jack the Ripper tours.

This is a Ripper book with Stewart P. Evans' name on the cover. Ask any long-time Ripperologist and they'll tell you that's all the review you need when deciding to buy a book. Like all of Evans' books, this one contains much information between its covers that you're not going to get in another book. And unlike many..if not most...books on the Ripper, you can trust this author. You might not always agree with him, but you can certainly trust him. If you told me I had to shrink my collection of hundreds of Ripper books and journals down to only 10 or 15, you can bet that all of Evans' works would be in there. Rumbelow's contributions to this book are equally as invaluable. He's one of only two sources for contemporary police information on the murder of Emma Smith. His notes, taken in the 70's, are in this book. That alone made it a must for me. But there's so much more. Get it now.

Couldn't get into it beginning of book all about history of the investigators... Boring. I thought this was about Jack the Ripper .

Jack the Ripper: Scotland Yard Investigates is claimed by the authors, Evans and Rumbelow, to be the first JtR book based solely upon the evidence that the police of the time had. The opening chapter on Charles Warren was fascinating and the book stayed on a top level of research and evidence presentation. It covers the canonical five and also a few of the other potential victims. Evans and Rumbelow know what they are doing, each of them has at least one other book out on this subject. They do not give you the long list of suspects presented after years of speculation brings about. Rather, they present to us the events and investigations through the documentations of the time period. Since it is "from the police" viewpoint, there are focuses on Warren, Munro, MacNaughten, and Anderson; all men who had prominent roles in police events of those years. If you are interested in the case and want a book about it, this is a good text for you. It covers the murders and investigations but offers no real suspect list (as many of the suspects began to arise well after the events by more modern researchers). If you are more 'into the subject' and read many books on JtR, this is pretty standard fair and absolutely worth putting in your collection; however, there's little new information that you can ponder. Plenty of fantastic photos and the research is top notch. Glossy pages are a bonus and it's a large sized book (7 3/4" x 10 1/2") of 294 pages. The Appendix A gives you a list of divisions in the Metropolitan police force. Appendix B contains a timeline and brief content of a multitude of letters sent in to various divisions and news agencies.

This book, as described in the blurb, approaches this fascinating topic from the perspective of the police investigation. As such it focuses on what was known or believed at the time by those in the

best position to review the evidence and, except for a brief general commentary near the end, limits itself to looking at those persons who were considered as suspects by contemporary investigators. The authors are two of the most respected names in the field and the end result here is one of the most balanced, well researched and clearly written accounts of the whole nasty affair. Personally, I think this is about the best book written about the murders but, perhaps unfortunately, I don't expect it will ever be popularly regarded in the same way. Because the authors have chosen to examine the case from the police perspective there is a lot of material about both police forces involved. The initial material about the formation and early years of London's police forces is entertaining and informative, but some of the biographical data of various officers and the history of the political and leadership crises of the Metropolitan force provides a bit more information than I, myself, really needed. That, however, is no more than personal observation rather than a serious criticism and many readers will likely find all the police history fascinating. However, since this material takes up nearly a quarter of the book - and nearly the first 40 odd pages - it may limit the appeal of this fine book with those more interested in the details of the murders and the identity of the killer. It is perhaps also a shame that, because the book begins with such a lengthy police history, I would not be inclined to recommend this as an introductory book to 'newbies'. I think, without the sensational 'hook' which typically begins Ripper literature, many people might get turned off before getting to what is, so far, one of the best reviews of the killings and investigation ever published. Not only is the book clearly and very well written but it is also one of the best illustrated of the books in my collection. Most works content themselves with a brief section of all-too-familiar photographs in the middle of the book in question whilst this one has very few pages which are not ornamented by some sort of graphic illustration or diagram. The book demands to be recognized for this reason alone. I must finally note that the strength of this book lies very much in the fact that neither Rumbelow or Evans feel the need to convince their readers of one theory over another, except perhaps as regards their respective assessments of the likelihood the mystery will ever be solved. Rumbelow does tell us that he thinks the Ripper was responsible for only 4 killings and even names his pet suspect in a brief mention in the last lines of the book. Both authors, however, suggest that the identity of the killer has yet to be established and that the actual killer may not be among any of the suspects named to date. I particularly like Rumbelow's quotation of his own words in his first book. He writes: "On the day of Judgement, when all things shall be known, when I and other Ripperologists ask for Jack the Ripper to step forward and call out his name, we shall look at one another as he does so and say: 'Who?' "C John Thompson

Authors Stewart P. Evans and Donald Rumbelow are not only two of the most well-respected authors in the field of Ripper studies (with such titles as *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Sourcebook: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, *Jack the Ripper: Letters from Hell* and *The Complete Jack the Ripper*), they are also two former London police officers who are directly responsible for finding and preserving important documents about this case for posterity. Put the two of them together and you can expect a book just full of great information, much of it brand new and fully documented with footnotes. On top of that, this is also easily the Ripper title with the most illustrations, many of them never before seen in any other modern publication. This book is simply required reading for anyone with a serious interest in the Jack the Ripper case.

One of the best books on the subject-book was exactly as described.

An Excellent book, very well researched. Another perception of the facts as an insider reviews the details of murder and investigation. Extremely intriguing.

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