



Bloodstains

Jeff Mudgett

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The shocking tale, based on a true story, of one man's spiritual journey to find his roots, only to discover his direct origins are what nightmares are made of, and his family tree pure evil - Dr. H.H. Holmes, the monster and master of Chicago's Murder Castle! Unable to accept this horrible secret, the author's initial research turns from an eerie fascination into obsession and finally a struggle for his very survival as his inner demons are turned loose while he dances with the devil. Halfway through the book and right up to the terrifying conclusion you'll find yourself asking what would you have done in his place on this unique and compelling voyage to the undiscovered.

Bloodstains Details

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From Reader Review Bloodstains for online ebook

A.J. Walkley says

I first read BLOODSTAINS prior to interviewing author Jeff Mudgett for the Mahalo.com Author Series. There were few books that I actually had the time to read at the time, but when I picked up BLOODSTAINS to read a few pages, I found I could not put it down and spent the rest of the day in the world of both Jeff Mudgett and H.H. Holmes. I have always been intrigued by serial killers and knew a bit about Holmes before picking up BLOODSTAINS. This book made me rethink all I had known about Holmes before. It's a truly fascinating book that explores both the mind of a truly heinous serial killer - as well as that of his great-great-grandson. I recommend this book to anyone in the mood for a great read!

For You says

Did you grow up feeling like something was missing, but you couldn't put your finger on it? Have you ever felt lost and unsure about yourself? At a family gathering, secrets of author Jeff Mudgett's family are revealed that would shock any family - they are descendent of perhaps the very first Serial Killer in US History, Herman Mudgett, better known as H. H. Holmes.

After his grandfather's death, Jeff stumbles upon things related to the family secret that send him on a journey to discover the truth, thus waging numerous wars with himself.

An excerpt from the Introduction reads:

Before you begin in earnest, please do something to set the stage. Read the prologue then close the book and stare into the monster's eyes on the front cover for as long as you possibly can. Holmes will properly introduce himself to you."

This is a must read for a history buff, someone studying Criminal Justice, those wanting to learn more about H. H. Holmes, or those that want a book that is hard to put down.

Comment Com

Glenn Starkey says

Review: "Bloodstains" Author: Jeff Mudgett

I received a copy of "Bloodstains" from a friend. My only knowledge of it was that the author was said to be the great-great-grandson of a man believed to have been Jack the Ripper.

As a former law enforcement officer my interest in the psychological makeup of serial killers and sociopaths was heightened by this book. I had read articles, books, watched movies and documentaries, and heard countless theories about the true "Jack." Nothing seemed of a definitive nature to truly identify the infamous murderer and in all honesty, part of me doubted this writing would be any different. But, I remained open to all possibilities—and am glad I did. I wasn't disappointed in the least.

In the prologue you are introduced to Herman Webster Mudgett, the great-great-grandfather. History knows

him as Dr. H. H. Holmes, the infamous serial killer, yet calling him such does his pure evil little justice as you come to know him throughout the book. In the cover's photo of Holmes' eyes you sense he is devoid of emotion. It is the indifferent stare of a man who sets his own boundaries of humanity regardless of how degenerate they may be.

Within the first chapter you realize a dysfunctional chord runs throughout the Mudgett family. Bert, the grandfather, was a man who remained to himself: cold, hard, seemingly without love from his family, or displays of love to anyone. In life he was focused on his grandson, Jeff. Yet never was there outward affection a loving grandfather should have for a grandson. In death, he was only considered with disregard. Other family members have their problems as well, but it is Jeff's introspection as an adult, his questions about lack of emotions, concerns about his lineage, his odd thoughts and such that becomes our focal point. And it is not until his father presents two boxes, items willed to Jeff by an uncaring grandfather that the true essence of the book begins to be revealed.

I now take absolute care in not writing any form of spoiler pertaining to "Bloodstains." I state this because the story is well written, each page so masterfully woven with the next that I fear too much information could easily be divulged. But once the boxes were produced, my mind locked upon them, demanding to learn more.

The boxes contain two private journals of his great-great-grandfather, Herman W. Mudgett, aka Dr. H. H. Holmes. The journals are keys which unlock doors of knowledge that have never been ventured through since the beast closed them. And like Pandora's Box, once the doors were opened, the evil within escapes.

This book is not for anyone with a weak constitution. It is not a graphically written horror story or tainted with pornographic flavor. But it will be disturbing, chilling, and emotionally destructive to the average person innocent of the mindsets and actions of serial killers. I also believe there will be readers who do not complete the book simply because it evokes such a spectrum of horrid mental images.

You follow Jeff's plight and struggle with his bloodline demon. You begin to learn information which contradicts other writings about H. H. Holmes, about Jack the Ripper, yet you will find yourself nodding agreement that this is plausible and sickeningly truthful. There will be moments of doubt and confusion, and you will wonder about Jeff's own degree of sanity, but the threads of the story are so tightly woven that soon its full tapestry, however macabre, comes clearly into view.

Could a demon have risen from the entries of a murderer's journal, infect and disease Jeff's soul as it did, especially with the writer being his lineage? Such a question is one each individual must answer for themselves. After having spent time as part of a paranormal investigative team and researched related subject matter through the years, I would not cast it all aside as foolishness. After all, the Catholic Church still performs exorcisms.

The presentation of Dr. H. H. Holmes in "Bloodstains" rightfully depicts a man as heartless as Vlad the Impaler, but displays a level of intelligence worthy of acknowledgment in the field of medicine. This acceptance of his dual nature creates conflict with a reader because you want to see him solely as a wrong-doer, not one involved with academic scientific pursuits.

When the last page was read, I sat in silence, debating my new concerns with all the tales about Jack the Ripper. Within the book I had viewed Jeff's internal struggle with a demon so vile Hannibal Lecter paled in comparison to, and realized once more the mind still retains unexplored regions. I was relieved though that a troubled grandfather at last received his worthy redemption. And when I closed the book, I felt it remain in

my thoughts for many hours.

“Bloodstains” is well written—no, it is masterfully written. Jeff Mudgett has bared himself for all to see, whether good or bad, presenting the reader with a turbulent story that allows for personal acceptance or denial. I give this book the highest marks for the depth its journey carries a reader. Everyone has skeletons in their family closet. Unfortunately, some have demons.

Glenn Starkey, Author

“Solomon’s Men”

“Year of the Ram”

“The Cobra and Scarab: A Novel of Ancient Egypt”

<http://GlennStarkey.net>

Dale says

I don't buy it and wish I hadn't

Bloodstains by Jeff Mudgett

The name of HH Holmes is well known to the world at large as one of the most evil men that ever lived. This story is by his great-great-grandson, Jeffrey Lee Mudgett. And to be frank, I find it a bit unbelievable.

Herman Webster Mudgett, alias Doctor HH Holmes, is a very real person. Could he be this man’s great-great-grandfather? Yes. It is known that Mudgett had a son by one woman and a daughter by another. This man could be the direct descendant of that unnamed boy.

The problem is that HH Holmes falls into the category of people whose legend sometimes outgrows the facts. Like Billy the Kid, Jack the Ripper, Adolph Hitler, and many others.

Facts are not that hard to find. Billy the Kid was gunned down by Pat Garrett on the night of July 14, 1881 in the cabin of Pete Maxwell, a friend of the kid. This didn’t stop at least two old men from claiming to be the Kid, explaining either that Garrett missed, killed someone else, or the Kid recovered from his wound.

Jack the Ripper was officially declared dead in 1888. Were there further crimes that could have been the same killer after that? Yes. But in an attempt to name the killer, dubious documents such as the James Maybrick diary, letters left by Walter Sickert, and the last words of Doctor Thomas Neville Cream (I am Jack th--) are used to write books “solving” the murders. People forget that Cream was in prison in Joliet, Illinois at the time of Jack the Ripper. He is added to the suspects by saying he had a look alike that served his time in Illinois. Right.

Adolph Hitler shot himself on April 30, 1945. His body was partially burned and buried in a shallow grave. Then there were the infamous Hitler Diaries. He was said to be living in South America. His body was scattered into the Biederitz River by the Russians in 1970. He had been buried in a box for some time.

Herman W. Mudgett was executed by hanging on May 7, 1896 (aged 34), at Moyamensing Prison, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His body was buried encased in concrete. Now, Jeff Mudgett claims to have diaries that indicate that Holmes lived a long time afterward. Are we seeing a pattern here?

There are many great books out there on HH Holmes. Even if Jeff Mudgett is the great-great-grandson of the Monster of the Chicago Castle, this is not one of those books.

One star. I give it a zero if it was permitted.

Quoth the Raven...

L.M. Smith says

A Twisted Yarn of Genius - 5 stars

****I purchased a paperback copy of this book from the author at the 2012 Las Vegas Paracon****

Plot: 5/5 stars

This is one of those reads that, from the moment one cracks the spine you feel like you're about to be let 'in the loop' on a massive secret and it did not disappoint! I couldn't put it down; I carried everywhere with me and completed reading it, despite it being a substantial novel, in less than 24 hours. Once I'd devoured the last page I felt the need to simply sit and marinate on it for a while, my brain desperately wanting to separate fact from fiction. On that subject, I recommend reading the notes from the author at both the beginning and ending of this book and in precisely the order with which they are presented - they add significant interest and depth to the story itself. It is billed as fiction but based on fact and the masterful stroke of the artists brush in blending the two is brilliantly done. I had nightmares when I finally fell asleep and awoke from them wondering if, perhaps, I should schedule a CT scan of my own. I loved it! I loved that it held me captive in its stony depths, I loved that it invaded my dreams, I loved that it made me question my own sanity after reading it. That is so rare and so much more fun than even the best roller coasters of the world.

Move over Stephen King ... no really, move over. This book will become as legendary as the monster that it so deliciously incorporates.

Characters: 5/5 stars

I am in a unique position here because I really want to talk about the major characters in this book but feel that, in doing so, I risk giving up the plot. Suffice it to say the main character (Jeff) reminded me almost exactly of my father with all of his sarcasm and logical perspective on life. I found myself attached to his personality in an instant and smiling almost every time he opened his mouth. Call me crazy but I was somewhat rooting for the bad guy in this one - not that I want to see people get murdered but there are definitely many facets to this gem and I was anxious to examine the world through all of them.

Writing: 5/5 stars

Dialogue:

This might actually be my favorite thing about this book ... but the sheer 'twistedness' of it is definitely a close second. I had a tendency to identify with Jeff more than, perhaps, I should care to admit.

Narrative:

As a first-person tale the narrative and the dialogue are often combined in a way that I really can't say too much about except to assure readers that it is fabulous! This writer has the eloquence of pen that so few can

achieve and I even found myself at risk of emulating his style in verbal communication with others while I was reading the book ... at least, as often as those 'others' dared to interrupt my voracious consumption of this book.

Editing/Formatting: 5/5 stars

I think I might have found one or two typos and I had every intention of writing them down to offer the author but then I was just too engrossed in the story to take the time for fetching a pen and now I can't even remember them. They weren't important - the story was far too good to let typos interfere.

Originality: 5/5 stars

Obviously this is an original work, clearly no one can tell the story of H. H. Holmes the way that his own great-great-grandson can but - aside from that - assuming that this story were based purely on fiction and without the added allure of the infamous serial-killer, it was a shockingly unique piece of literature. The angles of the tale and the struggles of the protagonist take the reader to places that most authors wouldn't even dare to attempt! I can only imagine that a plot such as this will make some wonder about the mental sanity of the writer simply on the basis that one would have to be either completely fearless or a bit mad to present this story to the world! Incidentally, I've had the occasion to meet this author and found him to be quite pleasant and sane - therefore I am putting my money on him being one heck of a brave gent. What a mental ride this was. **The term that comes to mind is a mind-_____ (it rhymes with duck but then my review would be deleted by most websites).** Seriously - this one will leave you reeling (pun intended).

~WaAr

Elizabeth Horton-Newton says

"Bloodstains" by Jeff Mudgett is a disturbing account of the author's discovery of his family history. After learning his great-great grandfather was America's first acknowledged serial killer, H.H.Holmes, Mudgett begins to question what impact that relationship might have on his own life. Holmes, whose real name was Herman Webster Mudgett, confessed to the killings of 27 individuals primarily during the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Eventually he was executed for the murders but as Mudgett delves deeper into history he comes to believe the killer may have actually done away with hundreds, some in other countries. At times he was suspected of being Jack the Ripper although this has been largely disproved by the research of other's. Diaries left by the senior Mudgett tell tales of torture as well as murder drawing Jeff into a downward spiral of horror. He questions if he has inherited the madness that possessed his great-great grandfather. As he delves more deeply into the mind of the monster he begins to experience epileptic seizures when he refuses to obey the voice in his head which he believes is the voice of H.H. Holmes. Struggling with resisting the orders of the Voice and following his own moral compass he is driven to the brink of disaster. Although written as factual I experienced a degree of disbelief as I read Mudgett's story. While the history of Holmes has been recorded in newspapers and other literature there are portions of the story which could only have come from the killer's own pen. Whatever the truth is the story is compelling and terrifying. This is a fascinating if sometimes difficult story to follow but well worth the read for anyone interested in crime and history.

Shawn says

I find that I must write this review at night, in order to give proper deference to the things that go bump in the night. For anyone that has been there in the reality -vs- daytime space, or realizes the thin veil that seems to exist between this and other worlds, this account seems to honestly capture the confusion and fear that can occur when other worlds are explored. Even if you are a skeptic, there is a certain aspect of Jeffery Mudgett's exploration that makes one wonder, even if only from a genetic perspective. I am facinated by serial killers, so know I approach this from that slant. The writing is not that refined. There are transition issues with the content, but I can not tell if this is from the writer or from a kindle formatting perspective. (Italics would have gone a long way to understand which voice was speaking) If it was the writer, then it seems the editor did not assist in a meaningful way. Overall , the story kept me involved to the very end.

P.M. Terrell says

A book you'll never forget

It's a rare book that makes a mark on your soul so profoundly that you know it will remain with you for the rest of your life. Bloodstains is that book, the only one since Truman Capote's In Cold Blood that kept me awake at night, terrified by the evil that inhabits some men's souls.

The true story begins with the author's mother, a woman so convinced of a lineage to General Robert E. Lee that she paid professionals to find the evidence. While they dismissed the claim to Lee, they instead uncovered an ancestor not only famous but infamous-America's first serial killer.

H. H. Holmes did not shoot someone from afar or quickly slice their necks, which would be bad enough; he tortured them in ways my mind cannot even fathom. The author's claim that he was truly evil is an understatement.

But this book is much more than the publication of Holmes' meticulous notes. It is the journey of a descendent that placed the pieces together like a tapestry that led to his own life, his own DNA. It is the story of a man faced with the incredulous information that he carries the blood of a man that could best be described as your worst Satanic nightmare, and how he resisted it, plunged into it and came out the other side.

This book is not for the faint of heart. It is very well written and from the first page, it will grab you and refuse to let you go, even in your deepest sleep, until the very end. Recommended-if you have the courage.

Delilah says

BLOODSTAINS takes the reader on a ride into the belly of the beast of late 1800's serial killer, H. H. Holmes, one of the most prolific and evil, and his descendants. The author's story of finding out about his ancestry and how it affected him on all levels leaves you wondering, could this be real? He presents evidence about the distinct possibility of solving the mystery of Jack the Ripper, he goes on a "ghost hunt" to the remnants of the Chicago Murder Castle, he finds the grave of Holmes, and takes the reader along every step of his adventure.

It's more than a true crime story, it's more than a thriller, it's more than an expose on H. H. Holmes or Jack the Ripper, it's all this with surprises at every turn.

Didn't put the book down until the very end, and it left me wanting answers to so much more!

Agneris Natalia says

This book is badly written, full of cliches and obvious errors. It's a shame this guy used his bloodline to create an uneventful plot and the notion that people are bad or good because of their genetics. Really don't waste your time with this book.

Paul Jones says

I met author Jeff Mudgett while working at a fancy hotel where he was staying while promoting his book on H.H. Holmes in Chicago. Holmes has been pretty big in Chicago the past decade, so I thought it would be interesting to read from the perspective of an actual relative of Holmes, but it wasn't. He discovers his relation to Holmes, then begins to feel possessed by his spirit. He has this possession epiphany when he realizes he'd like to kill his neighbor, whom he normally likes. I like my neighbors too, but I'd also like to kill them because they make a lot of noise, and their kids seem to not have shirts. This does not mean I'm possessed by the spirit of a prolific serial killer.

Melanie says

Had high hopes for this one as someone fascinated by the story of H.H. Holmes. But unfortunately the whole thing was so disjointed and uneven, I got frustrated trying to make heads or tails of it and gave up. Also, when the author is going over all the reasons why it's so hard for him to believe the diaries are real, and is trying to prove whether or not they are all written by Holmes/Mudgett, the one thing he keeps neglecting to mention is the fact that this would require Holmes/Mudgett being well over 100 years old (and still managing to get all of those years of living to fit into two handwritten diaries) but this stumbling block never seems to occur to the author. Or maybe it does much later on in the book, but I just couldn't get that far...

Sara says

If you're looking for the diary/journals of HH Holmes, this isn't it, but it's still a good read. This is Holmes' great-grandson, who didn't know about his family history until he received a box after the death of his surly grandfather. It deals more with how Mudgett coped with the news and the research he did, which is very interesting. Mudgett (and I) are convinced that Holmes was or influenced Jack the Ripper. Still looking for the transcribed journals, though. Also a collection of the news reports surrounding Holmes' murders, as according to Mudgett, it was one of the most reported-on trials of the century.

Cassius Shuman says

This is a must read book!!! "Bloodstains" is one of the most chilling and riveting books written about

notorious serial killer Dr. H.H. Holmes that I have ever read. In fact, it may just be the most uniquely written book on the subject matter. The premise that author Jeff Mudgett inherited personal diaries that he discovered belonged to the serial killer while being unaware of his ancestral relationship to Holmes makes for a thoroughly captivating tale. The chapter where the author learns at a family dinner that H.H. Holmes is his great-great-grandfather is indescribable. The author says that it was like, "Mr. Hyde and Dracula rolled up into one convenient ball, bouncing up after all these years right onto the family's front porch. They had gone from wanting to be related to Civil War General Robert E. Lee to having the distinct lineage of Jack the Ripper." Author Jeff Mudgett's gripping and mesmerizing writing style makes this story a real page turner. It's a real credit to the author. He uses his ingenuity in masterfully placing a true story within a heightened dramatic context. The author's journey is like a harrowing descent into a dark and demented rabbit hole. Jeff Mudgett's search for the truth is a thrill of a lifetime. It is a book you will never forget.

Stacey says

If you enjoyed and were particularly fascinated with H.H. Holmes, then I highly recommend Bloodstains. Whether or not the information Jeff Mudgett writes in this book is accurate or factual, I can't say, but it is very interesting. I have always been in awe of the human brain and it's capabilities and this book satisfies in that respect.

Be warned, this is not a book for the faint of heart as some of the descriptions of Holmes' killings are just graphic enough to gross you out.
