



The Crimes of Jack the Ripper: The Whitechapel Murders Re-Examined

Paul Roland

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More than a century after he stalked the streets of London's East End, Jack the Ripper continues to exert a macabre fascination on the popular imagination.

After scrupulously re-examining official documents of the time, investigative journalist Paul Roland strips away decades of myth and misconceptions to reveal the identity of a brand-new suspect who has never been seriously considered until now.

If you are expecting a finger to be pointed at one of the usual suspects, be prepared to have your assumptions turned on their head.

The Crimes of Jack the Ripper: The Whitechapel Murders Re-Examined Details

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From Reader Review The Crimes of Jack the Ripper: The Whitechapel Murders Re-Examined for online ebook

Mary Mehl says

Gripping and Factual

This book is a superior read on the subject of Jack the Ripper. Splendidly recreating the 19th century Whitechapel, with all its noise and din, its stench and its hopelessness. Roland carefully examines the circumstances of the infamous crimes attributed to Jack and also studies a number of murders which some Ripperologists allege were his work. Using official police reports, autopsy findings, inquest testimony and the claims of witnesses. The author draws together a thoughtful compilation of facts without sensationalism or embellishment and draws well-argued conclusions.

?Ruth? says

3.5 stars. An informative and straightforward commentary about the notorious 19th century serial killer, which concentrates on the facts, rather than producing shaky new theories regarding the identity of the perpetrator. Although there are a couple of intriguing new suspects mentioned, that I hadn't heard of before.

Sophia Young says

I enjoyed this book in the beginning, but about half way through I really started snoozing. It was an information overload at some points and it didn't need to be. This book is full of great information, there was just a bit too much of it at times.

Andrea Hickman Walker says

A good overview. Actually mentions the fact that eye-witness testimony is notoriously unreliable, however seems to think that profiling is more accurate than guesswork, though as far as I am aware no studies have been able to prove this. Interesting suggestions as to which murders can actually be attributed to Jack the Ripper rather than others.

Carina says

I don't have much to say about this book really, it covers a lot of the well known and lesser known aspects of the Whitechapel murders, and for the most part doesn't try to draw its own conclusions as to who 'Jack' was.

I had a difficult time with the authors style of writing, on one page he would say one thing (for example the police of the time did a good job) and then on the very next page reverse his point. I can understand why this

was done - to continue with the police example the author shows that whilst they did a lot more legwork than one typically believes they made a lot of errors. I just wish the presentation was different as I found it jarring.

Although I'm not a huge fan of this book I found it interesting, it includes a lot of details that I didn't know already and, for the most part, presents everything in an unbiased manner.

I think the best thing this book has done though is to give me a greater appreciation of the graphic novel "From Hell" as it weaves a really large number of 'real' elements surrounding the Whitechapel murders that were all separate theories and presents them as one theory.

I think if I had already known less about the theories behind 'Jack' I would have found this book to be a lot more interesting than it was, however I did learn new things from it - so although perhaps not recommended for an ardent Ripperologist this is a pretty good book for those with an interest to learn more in the topic.

Paul says

Review from Amazon UK, reproduced with kind permission from the author.

"The best book on this subject I have ever read!" November 4, 2012

By Ionia Martin TOP 1000 REVIEWER

This was hands down, the finest piece of material I have ever read on this subject. Paul Roland offers a unique view and timeline of these grisly events from before the first murder to long after the last when the investigation was closed.

He not only offers new information that I had never found in any other "Ripper" book but, a long list of ideas and possibilities for how the crimes could have been committed and motives for the crimes. When he states that he does not point the finger at the same old usual suspects, he is not kidding. The ending of this book was a delightful surprise.

I love that the author managed to remove himself and his own opinions from the information he put forth in this book. It does not come across as though he is trying to sway the belief of the reader and somehow, even with such a case history to present, managed to stay impartial.

It is very obvious that this author must have done countless hours of research before compiling this account. It is presented in a straight-forward, yet eerily entertaining way that makes you want to keep turning the pages. I was sad when I reached the end of this awesome book.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about the events of 1888. Simply outstanding!

Deanne says

Did feel like a very true to the crimes book, Roland doesn't come up with ridiculous theories about who Jack was. Various theories are discussed, and the reasons why it's felt that they can be discounted, ie the suspect was in France at the time of the murders.

Ralph says

It's been more than a hundred years since the murderer known as Jack the Ripper prowled the streets of Whitechapel in London, and yet his grip upon the popular imagination is greater than ever. For most people, I think, he persists as an idea, an archetype that transcends his monstrous crimes, recurring over and over in popular fiction—resurrected as a foe for Kolchak the Night Stalker, a deathless being in Bloch's "Yours Truly Jack the Ripper," a planet-hopping force in "Star Trek," a pawn of the Vorlons in "Babylon 5," or an entity still persisting at the universe's entropic death. Many people, however, do not require that Jack be resurrected for his life and deeds to have meaning; for them, the crimes themselves are as recent as yesterday, the fog still flows down those chartered streets, and the face behind the mask is yet a mystery in search of a solution. They are "Ripperologists," students of the life and crimes of Jack the Ripper, and their passion is "Ripperology." It is primarily for these people that this book was written by Paul Roland, who is well versed in crime, history and the occult.

Jack the Ripper is, of course, the unknown killer of women that has become the motif for all serial killers since then. In the autumn of 1888, he killed five (more or less) women in the heart of the greatest city in the world. While the term "serial killer" was not officially coined until the 1940s, Roland uses it often to describe Jack the Ripper, and ascribes it to the mindset of the police at the time. While none of the participants actually made the leap to set down the term in print they no doubt had it in mind, for I was surprised how close they came (astonishingly close in some cases) to using the term in the police reports and newspaper accounts cited by Roland.

In this book, Roland examines the crimes from all angles, drawing extensively upon primary source material, as well as secondary sources such as memoirs written by former Home Office and Scotland Yard officials years or decades after the fact. He looks at the victims, crimes, geography, witnesses, journalism, and investigation in minute detail. He evaluates theories and speculations of the time with the lens of years, and assesses modern efforts to pierce the identity of Jack the Ripper by returning to the source material or scrutinizing methodology to reveal flaws in procedure or logic. He separates fact from fiction, fiction from fantasy, and reveals all the hoaxes and frauds, both historic and modern. The result is an extensive and concise reference book that needs to be in the library of every Ripperologist, historian, crime aficionado, or person interested in Victoriana.

Amanda says

The author made a concentrated effort to be as unbiased as possible. Trying to avoid favouring any one theory over the other. Instead addressing each one separately and applying the known and proven facts to see if any of the theories hold water.

My only criticism would be that the author's repeated use of newspaper excerpts from that time period

caused my interest to wane. I understand the necessity of quoting sources when arguing a point, but it got to be a little much by the middle of the book.

Still an excellent read.

Elodie says

J'ai dégoté à la médiathèque. Il me faisait de l'oeil, sagement assis sur son promontoire... J'avais déjà trois livres dans les mains, sachant que j'en ai toute une tonne qui m'attend dans ma chambre et sur mon Kindle... Bah, au point où j'en suis je me suis qu'un de plus ou de moins xD

Et donc le livre de Paul Roland repart sur les traces de ce bon vieux Jack. Ce n'est ni plus ni moins qu'une enquête criminelle en fait, avec le passage en revue des victimes, puis des suspects, émaillé de quelques remarques et opinions de l'auteur. Un bon livre, somme toute, quoique je l'ai trouvé quelques fois un peu trop "rapide" sur certaines choses. C'est vrai qu'en comparant avec le livre de Philip Sudgen (que Paul Roland a utilisé pour son enquête) sur le même thème et qui fait 500 pages (celui-ci n'en fait même pas 300), bon, on se demande si l'auteur n'a pas pris certains raccourcis ou autres. Je ne suis pas une spécialiste du sujet, très loin de là, mais je pense que ce livre conviendra très bien pour des personnes qui veulent simplement survoler le sujet sans entrer trop dans les détails. Il donne une très bonne impression de ce qu'était la vie à l'époque, en plus du travail d'enquêteur de l'auteur qui donne même le nom d'un nouveau suspect et à la fin, ses propres convictions concernant l'identité de Jack.

Paul Roland s'évertue même, sur la fin du livre, à "démystifier" en quelque sorte l'histoire de l'Éventreur, en avançant l'idée que Jack n'est responsable que de trois ou quatre morts sur les neuf qui ont pu lui être attribuées ; et que le meurtrier n'avait rien du gentleman timbré en haut de forme et cape noire sortant de la brume armé de son couteau pour trucider de la prostituée, cette image et la légende qui va avec n'ayant été inventée que par les médias de l'époque qui ont contribué à forger le mythe.

J'avoue avoir été un peu déçue par la fin, parce que bon, soyons honnête, moi aussi j'adore la brume et la cape et le chapeau et tous les trucs que j'ai pu lire dessus, en incluant of course mon Johnny Druitt préféré de feu la série Sanctuary. Je ne dis pas que je suis partisane des théories farfelues comme quoi un complot aurait été ourdi dans les tréfonds du gouvernement britannique ; mais un peu de mysticisme et de fantastique ne fait pas de mal, et l'auteur a juste tué tout ça dans les dernières lignes de son livre. Mais hormis ça c'est un bon livre sur le sujet, assez recherché, bien que comme je l'ai dit une personne recherchant plus de détails devrait se tourner vers le livre de Sudgen.

Charlotte Bird says

An interesting and sensible account, managing not to get caught up in the usual 'it was the Free Masons what done it!' or the Royal Family or something. There were some editorial mistakes that made me twitch (names mixed up, etc) and I felt he was a little too eager to disprove every idea, as though that would make him more credible..but probably the best factual Ripper thing I've read.

Russell Delmet says

This is a harrowing read, I have to say. I thought it would be a good thing to add to my reading list; after all,

the Whitechapel murder spree is a crucial moment in history in many ways. But it's intriguing, revolting and infuriating all at once to read the story of such ghastly crimes knowing that the culprit was never brought to justice. At least, not that we know for certain. The author gives a very complete picture of the crimes, crime scenes and methods of investigation, as well as an impressive rundown of contemporary and modern theories about the killer(s) and the potential motives. Without spoiling anything major, I'll say that Mr. Roland definitely gives us his own views about what really happened and whom we should believe. There were points when I thought his perspective was somewhat limited. For example, he doesn't think the famous correspondences from "Jack" could possibly have been written by the real murderer, suggesting that a true psychopath would never put on such a public performance. I'm really not prepared to agree; I'm sure there are forms of psychosis in which the sufferer feels the need for some kind of public forum. The suggestion that some unscrupulous newspaperman submitted the letters in my view betrays a surprisingly strong antagonism from the author toward the journalistic profession. I guess we've all read some poorly written articles, but it's too extreme for me to suppose that some up-and-coming copywriter went to the length of obtaining a human kidney just to make a splash during a time when the nation was in such mortal terror. I also think it was a little excessive to go into such detail about what Aleister Crowley's opinion was of the matter, merely because he happened to be one of the most shamelessly self-promoted aspiring celebrities of the time. Points like these missed the mark with me, but I still found the book satisfying in terms of detail. The final chapter is particularly emotional reading, as we learn that there are countless people who may have been the Ripper and that multiple eyewitnesses are likely to have seen him only moments before committing his crimes. Add to this the fact that the London police at that time failed to make use of all the resources which would have been available to them at the time, including fingerprinting and photography and it's beyond frustrating to realise that the perpetrator of such hideous cruelty may have gone unpunished for all time. Very engrossing stuff, but prepare to be appalled at some of the evil deeds you'll read described as well as a good deal of the ineptitude at dealing with the infamous Jack the Ripper.

Bettye McKee says

A very interesting and well-written Ripper account

Does the author solve the mystery and identify Jack the Ripper? Of course not. Everyone seems to have their pet suspect, but how could anyone determine at this late date whether they are right? In fact, the actual Ripper could have been someone who never came under suspicion at all.

Nevertheless, this is a very readable and informative book. This he known suspects are discussed in relation to the known facts as opposed to the myths and blatantly sensational news stories.

Even if you think you know all there is to know about Jack the Ripper, you're sure to learn something new from this book.

Kirstie.M.Chamberlain says

Love this book I have read many times and yet still find it hard to put down jack the ripper has always interested me highly recommended

Joshua McPhill says

This book was very well written. I thought that it put great depth into the Ripper case. I used some of the information i got from the book in my Reaseach paper which was about him. The author did a great job on showing how The Ripper stalked the streets on London. I think it was a great book especailly coming from an investigative journalist that had just re-examined officail documents of the time. If you are looking for a straight up answer on who the Ripper is then be prepared to be shocked by this amazing book. If you enjoy mystery then read it now, you will not be dissapointed. The author provided a broad overview of the case, and coverage over some of the latest theories on the case.

One thing I liked about this book was how the author split up the book into chapters, Ch 1. is all about the Ripper's world. Ch.2 the leading characters in this dark drama.... ect... Another thing was the research he put in you can tell that this book was not written over night, it must have taken him a while to collect all of his data. One bad thing was some of the wording was triky to understand for someone my age, but then again the book is made for older people and I doubt that he expected an 8th grader to be reading his book. But over all this book was great!
